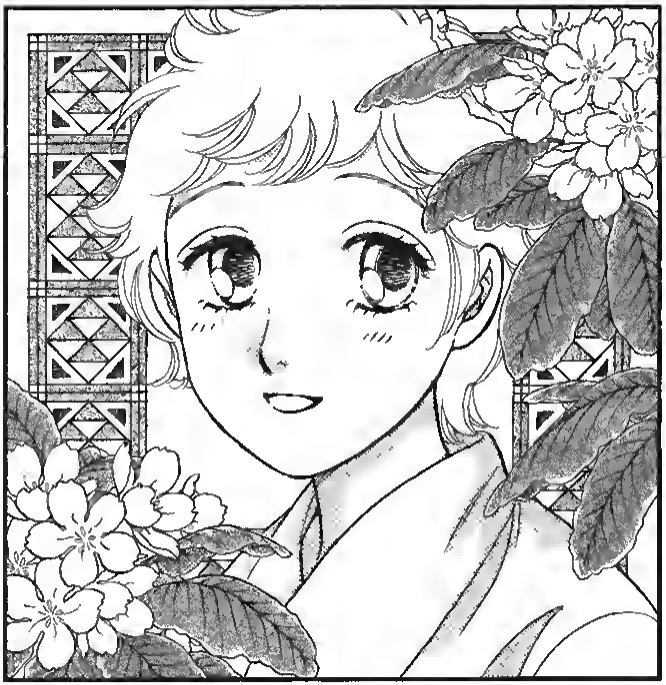
HANA TO YUME COMICS

TENKUU SEIRYUU

~ Innocent Dragon ~

Volume 1

Yamaguchi Miyuki



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This is a work of fiction. Any similarities to actual persons, groups, or incidents are purely coincidental and unintentional.

A highly anticipated epic fantasy novella fresh from Miyuki!

100 pages in one go!

TENKUU SERYUU

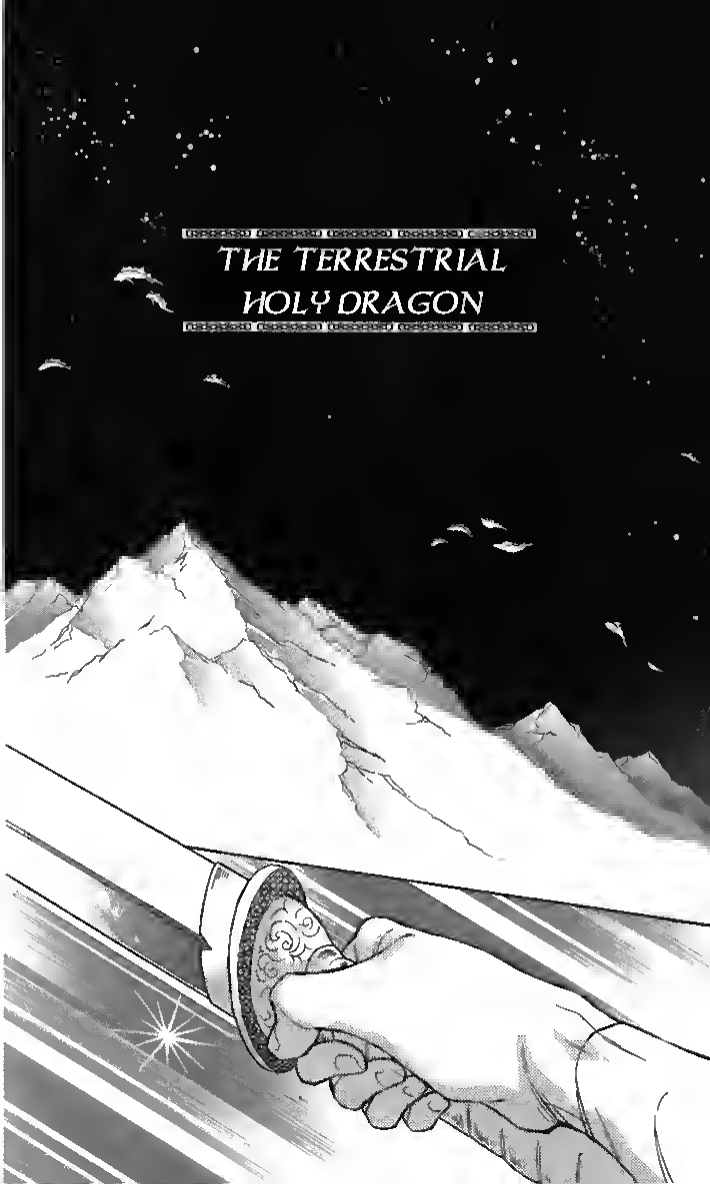
Yamada-ichi, Miyuki

This is the beginning of the tale of Kanan, a girl in search of the Holy Dragon that dwells on earth!

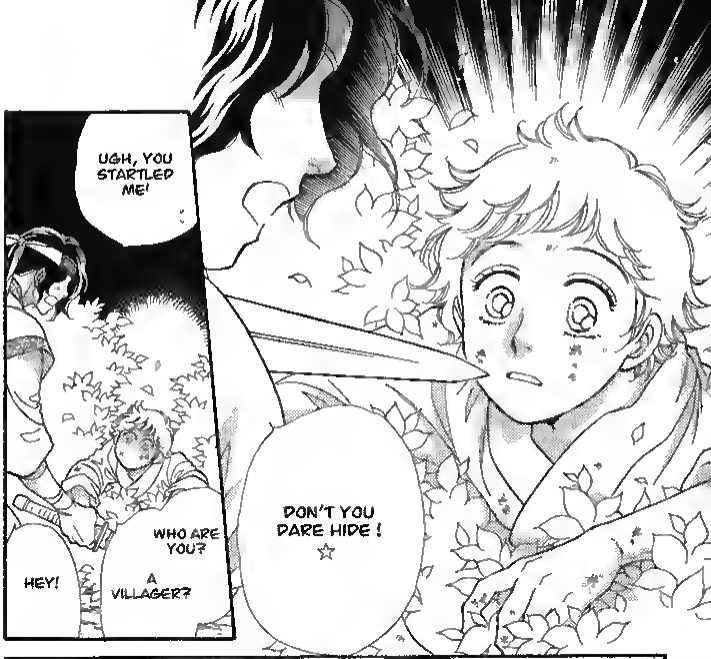
~Innocent Dragon~

All four volumes of the heart-moving Hana to Yume graphic novel Harutsuge Komachi (The Belle of Harutsuge) are back in print!

TENKUU SEIRYUU
~Innocent Dragon~


THE TERRESTRIAL
HOLY DRAGON

SLASH
MY SUPERB SKILLS— NEVER FAIL TO IMPRESS ME.
THUD
WHAT?
THERE'S ANOTHER?
USHI-



IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

A BLACK DRAGON BORN FROM DARKNESS BROUGHT SUFFERING TO MANKIND.
THE DRAGON OF DARKNESS SPEWED FIERY RAGE, MALICE, HATRED
AND DESPAIR.
ONTO THE EARTH.
ONCE UPON A TIME,
THE LEGEND OF THE HOLY DRAGON.
YOU WON'T REACH SANWA BY CLIMBING THE CLIFF. IT'S THE OTHER WAY
DID YOU GET LOST DOWN IN THE VALLEY?

THE HOLY DRAGONS THAT DWELLED IN THE HEAVENS...
SENT ONE OF THEIR OWN KIND TO EARTH...
TO DEFEAT THE BLACK DRAGON AND PROTECT MANKIND.
THE TWO DRAGONS FOUGHT A FIERCE BATTLE THAT SEEMED TO LAST FOREVER.
BUT BEFORE THEY COULD FINISH,
BOTH DRAGONS HAD SPENT ALL OF THEIR STRENGTH

THE BLACK DRAGON DISSOLVED AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH
WHILE THE HOLY DRAGON, UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE SKY, DECAYED ON THE EARTH
DECAY ...
AS IN ROT?
IT MUST REALLY STINK IF A CREATURE THAT HUGE ROTS AWAY.
I DON'T THINK THEIR REMAINS CAN EVEN BE USED AS FERTILIZER
THOSE GUYS UP THERE TOO
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
IF YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO GO TO
DON'T BE SCARED WE WON'T ASK FOR MONEY OR ANYTHING
ARE YOU HUNGRY? HERE, HAVE SOME FOOD
DID YOU COLLAPSE ON THE STREET?

...YOU CAN TRY GOING TO SANWA MANOR...
IT'S A RATHER UNUSUAL PLACE,
BUT IT'S NICE ENOUGH
YOU WILL FIND HELP THERE
IS IT TRUE, GOODWIFE?
I...
CAME HERE TO FIND THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
EEK!
IT'S YOU!
Don't you dare run away!
YOU SHOVED YOUR SWORD IN MY FACE ON THE CLIFF!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?!
YOU...
HOLY DRAGON?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

YOU COULD SAY THAT I HAD TO GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TO GET FROM ONE SETTLEMENT TO ANOTHER.
I WAS HALF-ASLEEP!
SORRY,
IN SEARCH OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON!
I CAME FROM MOUNT LAMO!
MOUNT LAMO?
Oh
NO, I'M NOT EVEN A NOVITIATE YET. I'M STILL IN MY POSTU-LANCY*
NUN-NERY
THAT'S WHERE THE INFAMOUSLY STRICT NUNNERY IS, RIGHT?
HMM, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SKINNY BOY.
THEY SAY THE NUNS PRAY TO THE HOLY DRAGONS OF HEAVEN EVERY DAY.
BUT YOU'RE REALLY A SUPER FLAT-CHESTED GIRL. YOU CAN IMAGINE MY SHOCK LAST NIGHT.
SO YOU'RE A NUN?
Needless to say, it's the main temple for the Holy Dragon Sect.

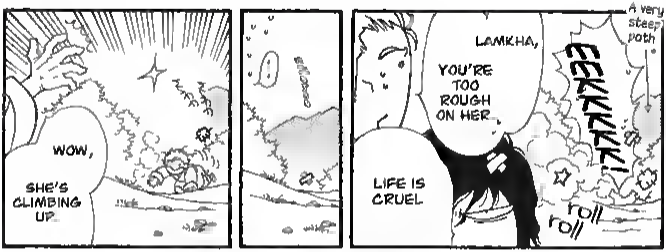
*Postulancy = trial period for a person hoping to join a religious order.

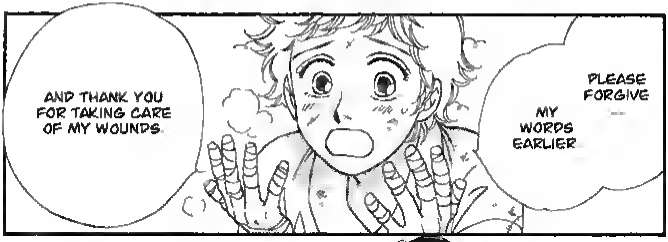
LEAVE THE NUNNERY AND GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN?
SO, WHY DID YOU---
THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS
HMM... A POSTULANT FROM MOUNT LAMO
Hey!
Again
AH, I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THOSE PATCHES ON YOUR PANTS
AND A KIND WOMAN FROM SANWA HELPED ME
WHEN I WAS CONFUSED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO GO BACK, I COLLAPSED ON THE STREET
BUT SOMEONE STOLE ALL OF THE MONEY ENTRUSTED TO ME
I WAS TOLD TO DO SOME SHOPPING IN TOWN,
Eek!
YOU DON'T SAY---
THEY EVEN WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO GIVE YOU CLOTHES
THOSE PANTS BELONGED TO GOODWIFE HATOMA'S SON!

FOOL!
I TOOK PITY ON YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE DRESSED IN RAGS!
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU HALFWAY!
I COULD FIND HELP BY GOING THERE!
SHE TOLD ME
YOU'RE FROM SANWA, TOO?
THERE'S THE EXIT!
Head
Head
DEPENDING ON OTHERS WON'T GET YOU ANY-THING, ANYWHERE!
TO BEGIN WITH,
This small!
IT'S SO SMALL THAT IT'S SELDOM INCLUDED IN ANY MAP FROM THE CAPITAL!
IT'S A COUNTRY IN THE HEART OF THE MOUN-TAIN!
DO YOU THINK THAT SANWA IS A PARA-DISE?
GO BACK TO THE NUNNERY AND BEG FOR FORGIVENESS WITH ALL THE TEARS YOU HAVE!

WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?!
WHAT IS "THAT"?
GEEZ, THAT WOMAN WILL HELP JUST ABOUT ANYONE AND BLAB ALL ABOUT SANWA.
SHE NEEDS TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO CAN BE LET INTO THE MANOR AND WHO CAN'T,
even if it's such a miserable waif like her
WELL, HATOMA MIGHT HAVE TOLD HER ABOUT SANWA,
EEP!!
HELLO, CHILD
OUUU!
I'M THE LORD OF THE MANOR
WELCOME TO SANWA.
Lord of the manor?
BUT YOU BROUGHT HER HERE, LAMKHA.

THIS IS SANWA...?!
HE SAID HALF-WAY, BUT I'M ALREADY THERE.
Sentry post at the border
DAMN IT, YOU SCRAWNY GIRL!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO REPAY ME, AFTER I BROUGHT YOU HERE?!
KICK


WOW,
SHE'S CLIMBING UP.
A very steep path
LAMKHA,
YOU'RE TOO ROUGH ON HER.
LIFE IS CRUEL
EEKKKK!!
roll
roll


AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY WOUNDS.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY WORDS EARLIER

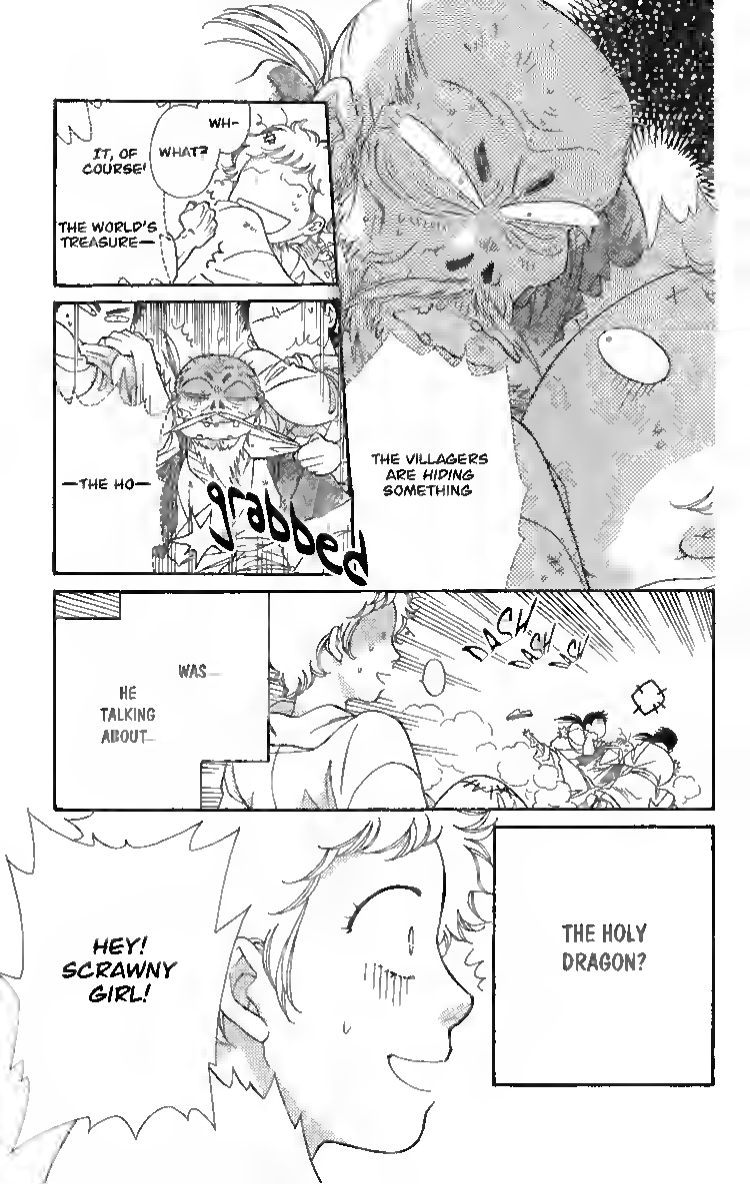
YOUR SON?!
HE'S YOUR LORDSHIP'S SON?!
ANYWAY,
I'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH MY SON.
DO YOU WANT TO WORK HERE?
THE HEARTLESS YOUNG LORD
I'M SORRY, CHILD.
MY SON IS A RUDE ONE, WITH HIS INSULTS AND FLYING HANDS AND FEET.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GAG

I'LL PAY YOU IN A LUMP SUM AT THE END
THE PAY WON'T BE MUCH, BUT IT WILL HELP COVER THE NUNNERY MONEY THAT YOU'VE LOST
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HELP US IN THE FIELDS
EH?
BUT EVERYBODY TURNED ME DOWN. I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND OFFER! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
I ACTUALLY WANTED TO WORK IN THE TOWN WHERE THE MONEY WAS STOLEN,
I DO! PLEASE, LET ME WORK HERE!
YES, IT'S JUST LIKE THE WOMAN SAID...
EVERY SINGLE TIME
YOU'RE TOO NICE, FATHER.
First of all... what do you want me to do? Take this up?
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, CHILD?
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORK-ING HERE!
MY NAME IS KANAN!

SMELLS NICE
THE WIND
THIS IS A NICE PLACE,
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO REMOTE AND OFTEN LEFT OFF THE MAP
HAS HELPED ME
THIS PLACE
Turn
Turn
Turn
Look
...roar...
WHAT'S WRONG?
Why are they acting like that?
Hsss...

...roar...
.....
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT
dash
dash
dash
SOUNDED LIKE THE ROAR OF A GIGANTIC BEAST
stomp stomp
WHAT WAS—
EXCUSE ME, MY LORD,
HEY!
RASHIWA, YOU GEEZER!!
Jump
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KOKYOKU GAG


WH-
WHAT?
IT, OF COURSE!
THE WORLD'S TREASURE—
—THE HO—
grabbed
THE VILLAGERS ARE HIDING SOMETHING
DASH DASH
WAS—
HE TALKING ABOUT—
THE HOLY DRAGON?
HEY! SCRAWNY GIRL!

ENOUGH DAY-DREAMING!
GET BACK TO WORK!!
Y-YES, RIGHT AWAY!
He snapped at me!
ACK!!
HEY!
Omigo- I no wasting
SOB
SOB
SOB
OH, NO!
SORRY, I'LL DO IT AGAIN!
AHH!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DO SOME PETTY WORK!
That old geezer...
Damn he's gone
NOBODY WANTS TO TELL ME ANYTHING BECAUSE I'M AN OUTSIDER.
AFTER ALL, IT IS THE WORLD'S TREASURE.
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?!
WILL YOU LOOK FOR IT?
IT MUST BE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN SANWA.

ROOT
shiver
NO, I'VE NEVER SEEN IT OR HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT IT TO KNOW IT'S REAL
BUT IF IT REALLY EXISTED, IT WOULD DEFINITELY...
.....
IT'S REAL.

DON'T DISTURB THE GIRL WHILE SHE'S WORKING,
YOU DRUNKEN GEEZER...
CAME FROM THOSE HOLY BEASTS
WE'RE PRETTY HIGH UP IN THE MOUNTAIN, SO WE CAN HEAR IT CLEARLY.
THAT SOUND JUST NOW...
HYAAA!
YES
PROB-ABLY...
NO!
FLYING SERPENTS DON'T MAKE THAT NOISE!
Flying Serpents
TOBIHEBI
THEY WON'T SIMPLY COME DOWN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT EVEN AT HIGH ALTITUDES!
BESIDES, THOSE VOICES...
CAME FROM WITHIN THE VILLAGE!
I THOUGHT
IT WAS JUST A LEGEND.

Rendered as Tobihebi (Flying Snake) in Japanese.
The Tibetan version is Lhajpul (Celestial Serpent).

IS.
THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON...
REALLY HERE IN SANWA?
WAIT A MINUTE!
"HIDING SOMETHING"...
I'M GOING BACK TO WORK!!!

IT IS THE WORLD'S TREASURE... AFTER ALL...
WHOA!
I thought this was a nice place
IT'S THE EMBODIMENT OF THE HOLY DRAGON
HOW COULD THEY?!
DRAINED OF ENERGY,
BOUND WITH A ROPE OR CHAINED SO IT CAN'T ESCAPE?!
Gyah!
Kanan's imagination
DOES THAT MEAN THE HOLY DRAGON DIDN'T "HIDE" ON ITS OWN WILL?
JUST A SMALL FRAGMENT WOULD DO
Fragment?
IF I COULD FIND AND BRING BACK EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY DRAGON
I've found the dragon! Or... something
HEY!
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I WILL STILL BE PUNISHED
I COULD EVEN FREELY RETURN TO THE NUNNERY!

I said hey!!
Ow!!
IN FACT, I MIGHT EVEN JUMP STRAIGHT FROM MY POSITION AS A POSTULANT TO MOTHER SUPERIOR!
OF COURSE,
I NEED TO DO IT WITHOUT THEM NOTICING!
YEAH,
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR IT!!!
I KNEW...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HER HERE.
EVEN IF SHE'S GOT NOWHERE TO GO TO,
SO—
THIS PLACE IS ACTUALLY A BARN FOR YAKS, RIGHT?
Moo
Let me stay here for a while.
Moo
BUT IT'S BETTER THAN STAYING AT ONE OF THEIR HOMES.
Oh well...
WATCHFUL GLARE

IT'S NICE
TO HAVE A ROOF
Want to see?
They lent me a blanket too
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THEY LET ME EAT ALL THAT TASTY FOOD
I USUALLY ONLY HAVE COLD SOUP AT THE NUNNERY, YOU SEE
I THINK HIS LORDSHIP IS THE ONLY ONE NICE TO ME HERE
HE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM HIS SON LAMKHA
Hah
HE WOULD BE THE SCARIEST OF THEM ALL IF HE WAS ANYTHING LIKE HIS SON ON THE INSIDE
But,
IF I FIND IT,
I'M GOING TO WORK HARD IN THE FIELDS,
THAT'S WHY,
THAT WAY, THEY WON'T GET MAD AT ME FOR SNEAKING AWAY WITH THE EVIDENCE,
I WILL REFUSE MY WAGES
LOOKING FOR THE HOLY DRAGON
ALL THE WHILE
TOMORROW, I WILL WORK HARD!
hopefully
I WILL TRY MY BEST NOT TO FAIL.

...SO I WON'T BOTHER ANYONE.
I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
BUT I MESSED UP!
I TRIED! I REALLY DID!
A HOPELESS ORPHAN LIKE YOU—
DO YOU—
WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT SOMEDAY?!

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KINKYOKU.ORG

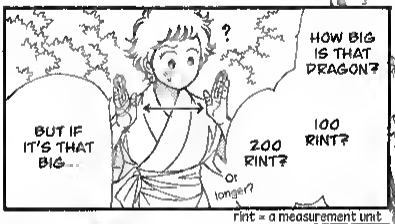
Start
that dream in a long time
Mr Yak
haven't had
THE MESSENGERS FROM HEAVEN— ROAM THE SKIES
IN PLACE OF THE HOLY DRAGON THAT COULDN'T RETURN TO HEAVEN
THEY SEEM INTIMIDATING, BUT WHEN WE LOOK CLOSELY
THEY LOOK MAJESTIC
so their white forms are visible
Today the skies are clear
THE FLYING SERPENTS—
ACTUALLY, THAT IS MY ONE WEAK NESS

ACK!!
Thud!
HAVING SEEN CORPSES LIKE THAT COUNTLESS TIMES AS A CHILD
slip
AND
KANAN !!
I'M SORRY!
CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING PROPERLY?!
I'M ALWAYS MAKING MISTAKES
From both of the mountain in the heart of the forest?
Or from the base-ment of someone's house?
WHERE DID THAT SOUND THAT I HEARD YESTERDAY COME FROM?
THE HOLY DRAGON
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT
I'M TRYING TO CHASE AFTER TWO HARES AT ONCE

COULD HE POSSIBLY...
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK
THE OLD MAN
WHO TOLD ME ABOUT THE HOLY DRAGON YESTERDAY
IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
ABOUT THAT CLUMSY GIRL?
LORD LAMKHA ASKED US TO KEEP OUR EYES ON HER
BUT CAN SHE REALLY DO IT?
whisper
whisper
whisper
IT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN EASILY BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HERE, IS IT?
HELLO, THERE
ARE YOU PLAYING WITH YOUR DOLL?
cough
OH, THAT'S A CUTE FLOWER ON HER
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN FROM ME
ANYWAY,
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HUGE, LONG CREATURE AROUND—
EH?

STOP...
BOTHERING MY SISTER!!
WHAT IF HER ILLNESS BECAME WORSE?
HEY, THIN.
WHAT IF THAT WOUNDED GIRL DIED BECAUSE OF YOU?
WHAT? WHAT KIND OF DRESSING IS THIS?!
OH, IT MUST'VE BEEN LORD LAMKHA
HE'S A ROUGH AND VIOLENT HOT HEAD...
JUST IGNORE THAT GIRL LORD LAMKHA BROUGHT HERE,
AND HAVE A LOOK AT CHUMI, DOCTOR.
SHE SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT COUGHING
SLAM
WHY, EVEN A CHILD...
CALLED THE LORD'S SON A BRUTE.
HMPH
rustle rustle

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG



rint = a measurement unit

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY LYING.
DON'T MOVE, OR I'LL STAB YOU.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS USE THIS SWORD
TO SLAY FLYING SERPENTS.
A SMALL CUT IS ENOUGH TO KILL YOU.
THOSE HOLY BEASTS' INNARDS ARE ACTUALLY HIGHLY POISONOUS.
JUST SO YOU UNDERSTAND.

I'M SORRY, I'M REALLY SORRY
I WON'T FAIL OR TROUBLE YOU ANY-MORE!
SO, PLEASE
DON'T KILL ME!!
HEY, I WAS JUST KIDDING!
NOOOOO!
CALM DOWN!
What are you so worked up about?
THIS SWORD IS NOT POISONED!
YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS SERIOUS, DID YOU? IDIOT!

It's your own fault, you know
poking around like that
I DON'T USE THE SWORD
TO CUT THE TRUNK WHERE THE INNARDS ARE, BUT THE TAIL!
IT HAS NO POISON AT ALL!
THE TAIL?
I GET IT!
(hum)
IT'S TO MAKE THOSE MESSENGERS FROM HEAVEN STAY AWAY
SO YOU CAN KEEP THE HOLY DRAGON HIDDEN IN THE MANOR TO YOURSELVES!
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!
DON'T FORGET YOU'RE HERE TO REPLACE YOUR LOST MONEY!
TO BEGIN WITH,
I CUT OFF THEIR TAILS SO I CAN—
HEY
STAY
STILL
slither
BUT THEY'RE DISTANT RELATIVES ALL RIGHT
THE GUY RIGHT BEHIND YOU MAY NOT BE AS POISONOUS AS THE FLYING SERPENTS,

THINGS WILL GET UGLY IF IT BITES YOU—
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID YOU COME HERE BY MISTAKE?
SSSS
YES, BACK THERE
ISN'T IT SCARY COMING HERE?
YOUR HOME IS IN THE MOUNTAINS, ISN'T IT?
HURRY BACK HOME THERE'S A NICE SNAKE
rustle rustle
Even though you're scared of Flying Serpents
A SNAKE CHARMER?
.....
ARE YOU
Interesting
I WAS THINK-ING...
I DON'T THINK THE SNAKE WAS GOING TO BITE ME
I CAN BE A LITTLE SLOW ON THE UP-TAKE,
SO I'M BETTER AT MAKING FRIENDS WITH ANIMALS THAN WITH PEOPLE
WHAT?!
OF USING YOU AS A BAIT FOR THE HOLY DRAGON,
BUT BEFORE THAT

BUT
WHY IS SHE STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD LIKE THAT?
SHE'S BETTER AT THAT KIND OF WORK
YOU ASKED HER TO TAKE ALL THE LIVE-STOCK OF SANWA UP THE MOUNTAIN TO GRAZE?
GATHER UP!
EVERY-ONE,
baa
baa
baa
baa
baa
moo
moo
GOOD.
NOW LET'S MOVE ALONG!

SHE HAS...
A UNIQUE ABILITY.
WE'RE SO HIGH UP!
ISN'T YOUR NUNNERY MUCH HIGHER UP?
WHY ARE YOU SO AWE-STRUCK?
BUT... I COULDN'T ENJOY THE SCENERY UP THERE BECAUSE OF ALL THE WORK
I... GUESS
I DID
I WAS A SHEP-HERDESS WHEN I WAS EIGHT
WITH THAT ANIMAL CHARMING ABILITY OF YOURS, COULDN'T YOU HAVE WORKED IN TOWN?

BEH
ONCE I CORRECTLY GUESSED A LAMB'S ILLNESS THAT NOT EVEN THE HEALER COULD DETERMINE
BUT,
THEY ACCUSED ME AS THE CULPRIT
THREE DAYS LATER, I WAS TURNED OUT
AFTER THAT, I JUST TOOK ANY JOB I COULD FIND.
BUT SINCE I'M PRONE TO BLUNDERS, I'VE BEEN FIRED OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS
TEN YEARS...
EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL,
...
I'VE ALWAYS FOUND MYSELF IN TROUBLE
WITHOUT REALIZING IT...
THAT'S WHY I'M AFRAID
OF THE FLYING SERPENT'S POISON?
I'M SORRY
DON'T KILL ME!
AH, I'VE HEARD OF THAT.
THEY SAY... THE HOLY CREATURES ARE SLASHED OPEN, THEIR INNARDS PULLED OUT, THEN PURIFIED AND SOLD AT THE BLACK MARKET

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

HOW CAN I SELL THEM WHEN THEY'RE JUST TAILS!
GOING TO SELL THEM, TOO?
ARE YOU ...
YOU CUT THEIR TAILS, RIGHT?
THE PRICE IS PRETTY HIGH
I DO IT AS A FAVOR!
PEOPLE ASK YOU TO KILL FLYING SERPENTS ?!
WHY WOULD ANYBODY DO SOMETHING SO BLASPHEMOUS?!
THAT'S USUALLY THE CASE
NOBODY DARES TO DO ANYTHING BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
.....
SPEAKING OF THAT
NORMALLY, THOSE GUYS UP THERE ONLY FEED ON THE WIND
BUT AFTER WAKING UP FROM THEIR SLEEP ON THE SNOWY MOUNTAINTOPS, THEY PREY ON YAKS OR SHEEP IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.
THE LIVESTOCK ARE THESE PEOPLE'S WEALTH.
BESIDES, THE MISSING TAILS WILL GROW AGAIN
IT'S JUST A WARNING SO THEY WON'T DISTURB THIS PLACE

STILL,
THOSE CELESTIAL HOLY DRAGONS CAN STRIKE ME...
WITH THE SAME RETRIBUTION AS THOSE KILLING FOR MONEY...
FOR ALL I CARE
WE'RE GETTING WET, MASTER LAMKHA.
Aren't you going to take SHELTER FROM THE RAIN?
TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
IT'LL BE OVER IN A MINUTE.
AH

THEN,
I'LL STAY HERE, TOO
.....
pitter patter
THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE SAID
TO HAVE COME FROM THE BACKBONE OF THE HOLY DRAGON THAT PERISHED ON EARTH LONG, LONG AGO
ITS BLOOD BECAME THE RIVER
EARTH-BOUND SNAKES THAT ATE ITS FLESH
RECEIVED FRAGMENTS OF THE HOLY DRAGON'S POWER AND BECAME MESSENGERS OF HEAVEN

TENKUU SEIRYUU
~Innocent Dragon~
THAT'S THE CHAPTER OF CREATION IN THE LEGEND OF THE HOLY DRAGON.
EVER HEARD IT?
No never
HUH?
IF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE RIVER CAME FROM THE DEAD TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON,
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY DRAGON CONCEALED IN SANWA?
YOU'RE ... REALLY ...
A STUPID GIRL!
WHAT?
BUT—
—WHAT ABOUT THAT LOUD ROAR YESTERDAY?
THERE'S NO WAY A LIVING HOLY DRAGON COULD BE IN THE MANOR!

and forced to work on the outskirts of the manor
deprived of his liquor
THAT GEEZER RASHIWA IS DELUDED
THERE IS SOMETHING WORTHY ENOUGH TO CALL A TREASURE IN SANWA,
WAS HE USED AS A BAIT FOR THE HOLY DRAGON?!
AND WHAT ABOUT THE OLD MAN WHO LEAKED THE STORY TO ME? HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
IT WAS THE WIND!
WHAT ?!
BUT, WHY WAS EVERYBODY WATCHING ME?
BUT IT'S JUST AN OLD, OLD ARTIFACT!
HUH?
STILL, EVERY TIME AN OUTSIDER COMES TO THE MANOR,
THE OLD MAN MAKES HIS MOVE AND ASKS THEM TO LOOK FOR THE TREASURE SO HE CAN GO DRINKING WITH THE MONEY-
THAT'S WHY EVERY-BODY WAS KEEPING THEIR EYES ON YOU
THEN
WAAH!
...
HEAVENS
YOU SAID YOU LIVED IN THE MAIN TEMPLE OF THE HOLY DRAGON SECT—
THEN— WHAT ABOUT MY PLAN?!
YOU'LL NEED TO WORK HARD AND SAVE EVERY PENNY!
IF YOU WANT TO RETURN TO THE NUN-NERY WITH DIGNITY

BUT YOU HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING
ACTUALLY...
THERE IS ANOTHER PART OF THE LEGEND...
WHAT REMAINED OF THE HOLY DRAGON WAS ITS SOURCE OF LIFE.
A SOUL THAT EMANATED LIGHT
THE SHINING SOUL SLOWLY TURNED INTO THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN
PEOPLE SAW THE LIGHT...
RIGHT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARED ALTOGETHER.
THE FALLEN HOLY DRAGON ...
LOST ITS FLESH, BLOOD, AND BONE.

AND THEN
A BEING SAID TO POSSESS A SPECIAL ABILITY,
WHICH WAS SO RARELY FOUND IN MANKIND AND WENT BEYOND THE FIVE SENSES, WAS BORN
LEGEND HAS IT...
THAT AT THE FINAL MOMENT,
THE HOLY DRAGON'S TRANSFORMED SOUL BLENDED INTO THE WORLD OF MANKIND...
AND GAVE BIRTH TO A NEW HUMAN.
SO THERE ARE DESCENDANTS OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON...
LIVING AMONG US HUMANS?!
WHO KNOWS?
BUT IT SEEMS THE HOLY DRAGON COULDN'T HAVE BEEN FULLY DESTROYED.
BECAUSE...
OF THE DRAGON OF DARKNESS...

THE BLACK DRAGON THAT SHOULD HAVE DIED ALONG WITH THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON
CARVED A CURSE ON THE EARTH FORETELLING ITS RESURRECTION
RIGHT BEFORE IT MELTED AWAY AND VANISHED.
.....
OH, WELL.
I DON'T BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD OF THAT STORY,
Hmph
Eh!?
IF YOU ASK ME
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE A STORY ABOUT SOME MYTHICAL HOLY DRAGON—
WHEN I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
Pout
THEN YOU FED ME THAT STORY, USING THAT TONE, JUST TO SCARE ME?!

DASH
I WAS JUST BEING MOCKED HERE
COME, SHEEP, LET'S GO BACK!
CRACKLE
THE ROLLING THUNDER
IS THE VOICE OF THE MESSENGERS OF HEAVEN
THEY'RE CALLING, SEARCHING
FOR THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON TURNED HUMAN
DAMN...
WHAT A WELL WOVEN STORY!
HE SAID...

HE DOESN'T...
EVEN BELIEVE IN IT.
OH, WELL.
FROM NOW ON,
YOU'D BETTER DO A PROPER JOB!
HUH?!
BUT YOU SEEMED ...
TO THINK OUTSIDERS LIKE ME COMING TO SANWA WAS A BAD THING, MASTER LAMKHA.
EVEN IF I FAIL AND TROUBLE OTHERS...
EVERY TIME?
THEN YOU'RE LETTING ME START OVER?

NO, OF COURSE NOT
NOT AT ALL.
Ohh
THAT BOY PICKING FLOWERS OVER THERE...
THIN...
He's the protective brother who kicked me this morning
FLOWERS, HUH?
I SEE. THEY'RE FOR HIS BEDRIDDEN LITTLE SISTER.
Creak
HE REALLY CARES ABOUT HIS SISTER, DOESN'T—

WATCH OUT!!
SLASH
HE...
CUT THE ROCK IN TWO?!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, THIN?

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

I HATE YOU!
HE'S GOING TO KICK YOU DOWN THE SLOPE!
RUN AWAY!
Can you stand?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOUR SISTER IF YOU'D BEEN FLATTENED WHILE PICKING FLOWERS?!
YOU'VE BEEN TOLD A THOUSAND TIMES THAT THESE ROCKY AREAS ARE DANGEROUS!
I HATE YOU, LORD LAMKHA!
YOU'RE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT...
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE LORD'S SON!
What's that rack--at?
I HEARD ABOUT IT!
WHEN YOU NEARLY DIED FROM A SICKNESS
LAMKHA
THE HEALER GAVE YOU SOME VERY EXPENSIVE MEDICINE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE
BUT...
THAT MEDICINE CAN CURE ANYTHING IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

MY SISTER...
YOU WOULD NEVER DO THE SAME FOR CHUMI!
WE CAN ONLY GET CHEAP MEDICINE THAT DOESN'T WORK...
BECAUSE WE'RE POOR! AND SHE'S GETTING WORSE AND WORSE!
I HATE YOU, THE HEALER AND EVERY-BODY!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING THE LORD'S SON...
BECAUSE...
I AM NOT...
HIS REAL SON.
I CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE CHILD FROM MY MOTHER'S PREVIOUS MARRIAGE.
WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT MEDI-CINE?
WAS IT YOUR NEIGH-BOR?
BUT THIN, I SUPPOSE...

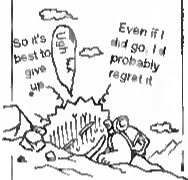
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO GIVE CHUMI THAT MEDICINE,
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T
IF SHE WERE FORCED TO TAKE IT,
IT'S TOO STRONG
VERY FEW PEOPLE CAN TAKE IT
THIN,
—NOBODY TOLD YOU THE WHOLE STORY,
SHE WOULD DIE IMMEDIATELY
SOME BODY HELP ME!
IT'S MY SHEEP!
HELP!
THIN
.....
HUH?

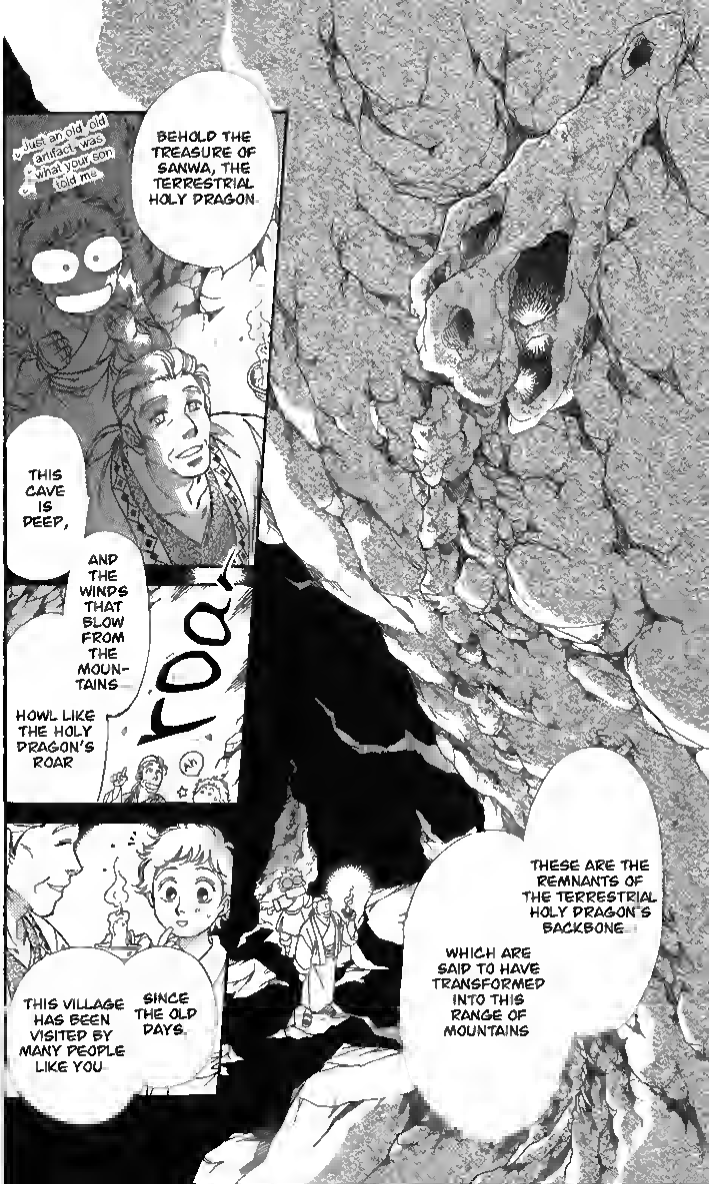
THE FLYING SERPENTS...
ATE ONE OF MY SHEEP IN THE WOODS!!
I WAS LOOKING FOR IT ALL MORNING, BUT IT WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN CAUGHT LAST NIGHT.
OH, NO!
THEY'RE COMING AGAIN, AREN'T THEY?!
LANKHA...
...SO I HAVE A JOB...
THOUGH IT'S MY OWN HOME, EH?
ARE YOU GOING TO PAY ME, FATHER?
<Don't be stupid.
EVERY-ONE, STAY INDOORS TONIGHT,
AND KEEP YOUR LIVE-STOCK IN THE BARN
THIS IS JUST PERFECT-
IN THE MEAN-TIME-

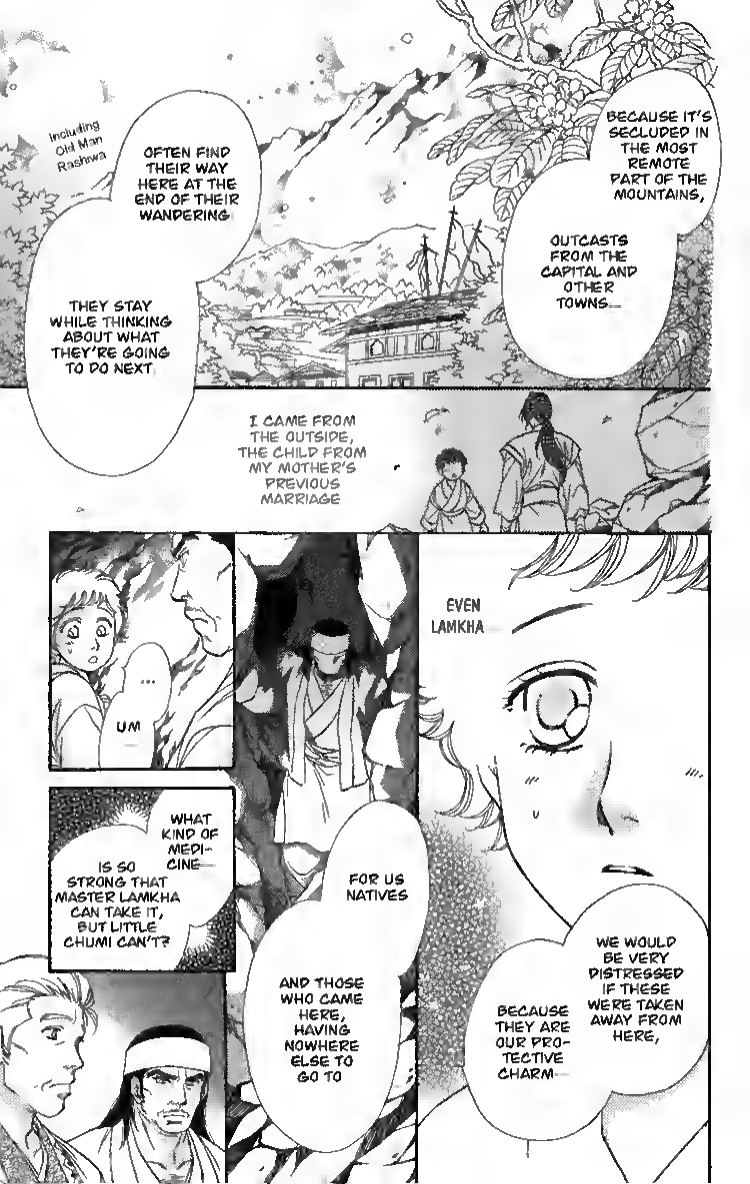
IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

One

This is an Asian fantasy set in the Himalayas. To get into the mood of Holy Dragons and Flying Serpents, I pinned up a poster which shows a bird's eye view of Asia, above my desk. I would like to see the Himalayas for myself, but my altitude sickness gets in the way. By the way, I was given a blood test during a checkup and was diagnosed with a high level of red blood cells for a woman. If my memory serves me right, hemoglobin is a complex protein that carries oxygen. My body couldn't have been worse prepared against altitude sickness, right?




Just an old old artifact, was what your son told me
BEHOLD THE TREASURE OF SANWA, THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON
THIS CAVE IS DEEP,
AND THE WINDS THAT BLOW FROM THE MOUN-TAINS
HOWL LIKE THE HOLY DRAGON'S ROAR
roar
THESE ARE THE REMNANTS OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON'S BACKBONE
WHICH ARE SAID TO HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO THIS RANGE OF MOUNTAINS
SINCE THE OLD DAYS.
THIS VILLAGE HAS BEEN VISITED BY MANY PEOPLE LIKE YOU


Including Old Man Rashiwa
OFTEN FIND THEIR WAY HERE AT THE END OF THEIR WANDERING
THEY STAY WHILE THINKING ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO NEXT
BECAUSE IT'S SECLUDED IN THE MOST REMOTE PART OF THE MOUNTAINS,
OUTCASTS FROM THE CAPITAL AND OTHER TOWNS...
I CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE CHILD FROM MY MOTHER'S PREVIOUS MARRIAGE
...
UM...
WHAT KIND OF MEDI-CINE...
IS SO STRONG THAT MASTER LAMKHA CAN TAKE IT, BUT LITTLE CHUMI CAN'T?
FOR US NATIVES
AND THOSE WHO CAME HERE, HAVING NOWHERE ELSE TO GO TO
EVEN LAMKHA...
BECAUSE THEY ARE OUR PRO-TECTIVE CHARM...
WE WOULD BE VERY DISTRESSED IF THESE WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM HERE,

THE INNARDS...
OF A FLYING SERPENT.
IT IS A DEADLY POISON TO MOST,
BUT IT CAN ALSO WORK WONDERS...
FOR A FEW.
WELL, WELL.
ALL GANGED UP TONIGHT, EH?

STARING AT THEM WOULD LEAVE ME PARALYZED AND HELPLESS
YOUR EYES ARE TROUBLESOME
BUT
YOU CAN COME AND GET ME ALL AT ONCE FOR ALL I CARE
SINCE HE WAS A BABY.
LAMIKHA HAS BEEN UNCANNILY PERCEPTIVE.
IN THE PAST.
HE'S PICKED OUT SUSPICIOUS FOLK WHO'VE TRIED TO SNEAK INTO SANWA.
THAT BOY WAS BORN...
WITH ABILITIES SURPASSING THE FIVE SENSES,
BEYOND THE KEN OF ORDINARY SOULS.

SUCH A BANEFUL THING...
CAN ONLY CURE PEOPLE LIKE HIM.
ザシュッ

HE ATTACKS MARAUDING FLYING SERPENTS
WITH HIS EYES CLOSED,
CUTTING ONLY THEIR TAILS
THAT FEAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY NORMAL MAN
WITH HIS SWORD IN HAND, LAMKHA IS PEERLESS
ABILITIES SURPASSING THE FIVE SENSES
THE HOLY DRAGON'S TRANS-FORMED SOUL
GAVE BIRTH TO A NEW HUMAN
I DON'T BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD OF THAT STORY
KANAN?!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KANAN?!
STOP!
WHAT?!
YOU IDIOT!
reach
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME OUT HERE!!
BUT...
I SAW THAT WINE BOTTLE ROLLING NEAR YOUR FEET!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN DANGEROUS IF YOU'D TRIPPED OVER IT!
YOUR RUNNING OUT HERE IS WHAT'S DANGEROUS!
FOOF

STOP!!
STAY AWAY!
RETURN TO THE SKY!!

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GAG

THIS...
IS THE PROOF
ON HIS NAIL...
IS A MARK RESEMBLING A DRAGON'S EYE.
CALLING ME A DESCENDANT OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON...
WOULD BE AN EXAGGERATION,
BUT I THINK IT'S STILL A THROWBACK TO AN ANCESTOR
THOUGH, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL USE THESE POWERS.
TO SAVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING, THOUGH.

IT WAS PROBABLY THANKS TO THESE POWERS
THAT I WAS SAVED BY THE FLYING SERPENT'S POISON, THE ULTIMATE CURE-ALL.
ONLY
WHEN I WAS DYING BACK THEN,
I CERTAINLY DON'T INTEND TO FIGHT THE BLACK DRAGON, IF IT RESURFACES SOMEDAY.
HEY,
SHOW ME
SERVE.
I'M GRATEFUL
THAT I SURVIVED.
BECAUSE I WANT TO SERVE THE PLACE THAT RAISED ME
I WASN'T ALONE IN THIS
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED
HUH?
YOUR
HANDS

THE HOLY DRAGON'S SOUL BLENDED INTO THE WORLD OF MANKIND,
AND SPREAD LIKE LEAVES AND BRANCHES,
THEN WITHERED.
I'VE WONDERED SOMETIMES THAT IF THE RESIDUE OF THE BLENDING CREATED THROWBACKS.
LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS
SO, PLEASE,
THEN THERE MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE LIKE ME IN THIS WORLD
ARE YOU SAYING
THAT I'M LIKE YOU?!
IT'S PROBABLE
HAVING THE FLYING SERPENTS OBEY YOUR COMMAND IS ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY.

Hey!
I'M NOT LIKE THAT! NO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
PEOPLE CALL ME...
CLUMSY AND SLOW...
ALL THE TIME!
AFTER I STARTED LIVING ON MY OWN, I GOT YELLED AT AND BEATEN A BILLION TIMES!
THEY USED TO SAY...
Didn't you dress my wounds yourself?
LOOK AT MY HANDS!
THERE'S NO MARK ON MY NAILS!
MY MIDDLE FINGER DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A NAIL! IT TORE OFF THE FIRST TIME I CLIMBED A CLIFF!
IT WOULDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
IF THEY KILLED A USELESS CHILD LIKE ME
I'M JUST A NUISANCE
WHO'S NEVER BEEN GOOD FOR ANYTHING
YOU'RE VALUABLE IN EVERY WAY, MASTER LAMKHA

WE'RE AS DIFFERENT AS HEAVEN AND DIRT!
SO PLEASE, DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ME!
HEY!
I'M BEGGING YOU
PLEASE, GIVE ME A JOB
I PROMISE I WON'T MESS UP
I WON'T BE A BOTHER, EITHER
I WILL WORK VERY HARD
SO, PLEASE
LET ME STAY

PLEASE TELL ME
THAT I'M ALLOWED TO LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER DAY...
HUH?
AND THEY'RE TAKING THE ANIMAL TRAIL...
WHO ARE THEY?
THEY DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR...
THAT LITTLE
SHE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME SINCE THEN
How dare she ignore her own savior!

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GAG

LOOK, BIG BROTHER.
FLOWER SHAPED CLOUDS
THEY LOOK JUST LIKE...
MY DRAWINGS ...
H.
THESE ARE THE FLOWERS THAT THIN WAS PICKING
I'M GOING TO PICK SOME
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM HERE
UH-UH, BETTER NOT
HEY! OVER HERE!!
GO AHEAD!
PICK SOME FOR LITTLE CHUMI! ♡
It's safe here
.....
YOU KNOW —

...YOU COULD'VE PICKED THEM YOURSELF
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY TO THE FIELDS TO LOOK FOR ME
HUH?
NO CAN DO.
BECAUSE...
THESE FLOWERS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PICKED BY YOU, THE BIG BROTHER
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT.
IT WILL MAKE CHUMI HAPPIER
HEY!!!
THIN!
THERE YOU ARE!
LITTLE CHUMI...
SUDDENLY COLLAPSED!
IT'S TERRIBLE!

AND THEN—
EVEN IF THE MOST EXPENSIVE MEDICINES WERE USED
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, CHUMI WAS BEYOND HELP—
KANAN,
CAN YOU PLEASE
AREN'T YOU A NOVITIATE?
WE JUST COULDN'T TELL THAT TO HER AND THIN

I CAN'T EVEN RERFORM THE SIMPLEST CEREMONY.
I'M REALLY JUST A POSTU-LANT.
.....
I'M SORRY.
GIVE CHUMI
A SIMPLE CEREMONY?
HEY...
I AM NO HELP.
EVEN AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS,
WHERE'S THIN?
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS SISTER'S FUNERAL.
THIN!

I WANT TO BURN HER HAIR
IN THE HIGHEST PLACE POSSIBLE
THAT WAY, THE SMOKE WILL REACH THE SKY FASTER,
SO SHE CAN BE REBORN SOON
IN THAT CASE,
WE CAN DO IT THERE!
DON'T BE STUPID!
IT'S ALL RIGHT THIS IS NOT AS BAD
AS THE FIRST CLIFF I CLIMBED
HEY!
EEK!
THIN,
PLEASE GIVE ME CHUMI'S HAIR

A FLYING SERPENT!!
LOOK OUT!!
WAIT...!
COULD IT BE...
.....
YOU ARE
THE SAME ONE AS THE OTHER NIGHT?

WOULD YOU PLEASE ...
TAKE THIS TO HEAVEN?
Ah
My body
It is amazing
YOU ARE REALLY...

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

YOU TAKE TEN TIMES,
AND GIVE ONCE
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH
AH, THERE THEY ARE!
WE HAVE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE HERE, HAVE SOME.
YOU MUSTN'T STAY GLOOMY DURING A FUNERAL
ALL OF US IN SANWA
SHOULD HOLD ONTO THE HAPPY MEMORIES OF CHUMI
ISN'T THIS
CHUMI'S FAVORITE DOLL?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
HERE

TAKE IT
I KNOW
CHUMI WOULD SAY THE SAME
YOU DID
GREAT
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT?

EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE TO TEN?
CAN I REALLY STAY IN SANWA LONGER?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR, LAMKHA?
SOME STRANGE MEN HAVE BEEN PROWLING THE TRAILS AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS.
THEY'VE BEEN ASKING AROUND ABOUT PATHS THAT COULD LEAD TO THE SNOWCAPS WHERE THE FLYING SERPENTS SLEEP.
AND THEY'RE TOWING A CART UP THE MOUNTAIN.

Pinch
HEY!
Be care-full
Hmm
Shh
...MASTER LANKHA?
HOW MUCH LONGER WERE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME WAIT?
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO HANDLE?

DID YOU MANAGE
TO CATCH A FLYING SERPENT?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!!
IT MUST HAVE ALREADY STARTED ROTTING WHILE WE WERE CHATTING
RUSTLE
WE RISKED OUR LIVES SEARCHING FOR THEM...
AND SLEW THEM WHILE THEY SLEPT IN THE SNOW!
WE WON'T LET YOU STEAL THEM FROM US!
DON'T LET IT ROT BEFORE YOU GET THERE
IF YOU WANT TO FETCH A HIGH PRICE IN THE CAPITAL...
ACTUALLY...

AS IF!
BUT I DON'T WANT FOOLS LIKE YOU TO COME HERE AGAIN!
DON'T THINK I'M LETTING YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
Springs
IT'S THAT FLYING SERPENT!!
WHA?!
DAMN IT! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE IN THE BUSHES!
!!

YOU IDIOT!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO BUTT IN WHERE IT'S DANGEROUS! YOU NEARLY GOT—
MASTER LAMKHA,
THIS FLYING SERPENT IS THE ONE—
THAT TOOK CHUMI'S HAIR TO HEAVEN,
BUT NOW...

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KINGYOKILL.ORG

HANG ON!!
DAMN IT!!
YOU'VE COME THIS FAR...
TO REACH SANWA!
YOU LOST YOUR WAY AND STILL STRUGGLED UP THAT CLIFF!
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP NOW BECAUSE OF ONE STUPID THING?!
SCRAWNY GIRL!

THE FLYING SERPENT'S ESSENCE...
.....
I'LL PUT MY BET ON IT,
SINK OR SWIM.
Yank
IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING,
YOU WON'T MAKE IT.
.....
MASTER LAM...

.....
HEY!
SCRAWNY GIRL!

DASH!
ONE TO TEN IS ENOUGH
DEPENDING ON OTHERS WON'T GET YOU ANYTHING, ANYWHERE!
DID GREAT
YOU

DAMN IT!
NOT AFTER I'VE COME THIS FAR—

IT'S PEOPLE LIKE HIM,
WHO...
YOU SHOULD PUNISH,
HOLY DRAGON!!
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
Ahhhhhhh!

AAGHH!
A WHOLE PACK...
OF FLYING SERPENTS!
!!

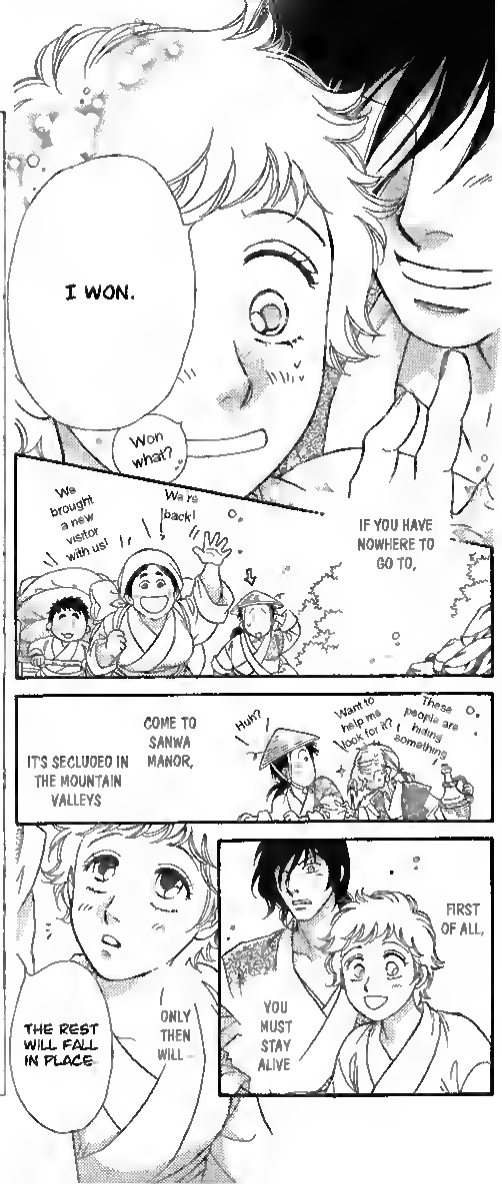
YOU'RE...
ALIVE!!
DID YOU CALL THE FLYING SERPENTS?!
ARGHHHH!!
SLOT
IT'S STILL ALIVE!
WHOARGH!

WWWA
YOU HELPING...
WERE...
whoosh
US?

YOU...
SAVED MY LIFE.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

I WASN'T REALLY DEAD BACK THEN,
SO IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE FLYING SERPENT'S ESSENCE!
DUMMY!
THERE'S NO WAY SOME-ONE HALF-DEAD...
CAN GET UP AND SUDDENLY WALK AROUND AFTER BEING FED THAT POISON!
"THAT HURTS, THAT HURTS!!!"
IT WAS A COINCIDENCE!!
I TOLD YOU THAT NAIL CAME OFF WHEN I WAS CLIMBING—
SEE FOR YOURSELF!


I WON.
Won what?
We brought a new visitor with us!
We're back!
IF YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO GO TO,
COME TO SANWA MANOR,
IT'S SECLUDED IN THE MOUNTAIN VALLEYS
Huh?
Want to help me look for it?
These people are hiding something
FIRST OF ALL,
YOU MUST STAY ALIVE
ONLY THEN WILL—
THE REST WILL FALL IN PLACE—

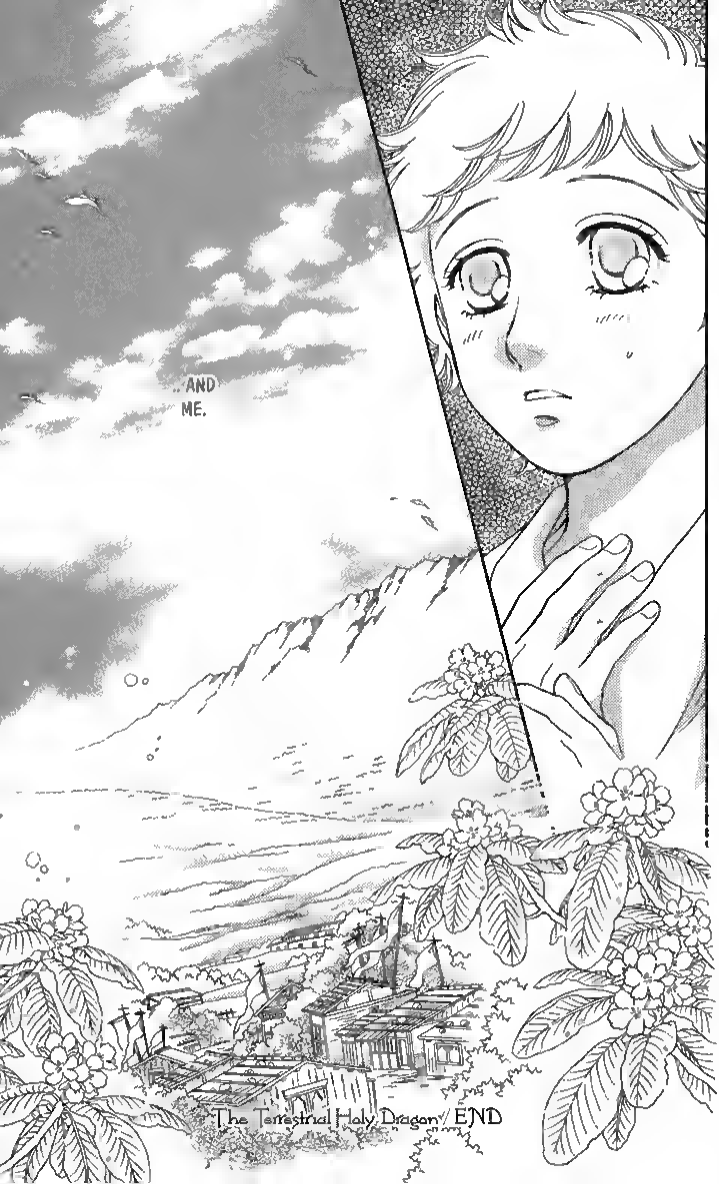
two

At first, I told my editor that Lamkha was inspired by a young Tortoise Matsumoto! But as I drew, his face looked more and more like Nagase Tomoya[2] from Toko[3] (in my opinion). The lord of the manor was based on Terao Akira[4]. As for Lasam the healer, Chiba Shin'ichi[5] came to mind while I was creating him. What an extravagant cast. The Flying Serpents were based on the idea of white crocodiles flying through the sky. I took out the limbs to make them more like serpents, but they became imbalanced. So I added those fin-like things, but then they looked like grim-faced dolphins. Even so, since I love monsters, I found them refreshing and very easy to draw.

The most difficult character to draw was Kanan a.k.a. the heroine. Her face just wouldn't settle. Argh!

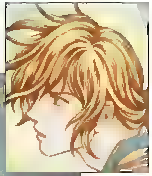
[1]A singer.
[2]A singer and actor.
[3]A J-Pop band.
[4]A musician and actor.
[5]An actor and martial artist.

A NEW ROAD IS WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED,
KANAN.
What road?
What about my goddamn plans?
I WAS LOOKING FOR THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON.
BUT WHAT I FOUND
WERE ITS DESCENDANTS
Rashiwa, you geezer!
HIM...
EEK



The Terrestrial Holy Dragon/ END

TENKUU SEIRYUU
-Innocent Dragon-



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This work is from fans to fans. If you like Yamaguchi Miyuki's work, support her by buying the manga

IVYSCAN

IVYSCAN KAKYOU BAG

http://ivyscan.kakyoku.org

10月5日はれのち雨
今日失恋しました。

October 5 (Clear skies, then rain)
Today my girlfriend dumped me

10月6日くもり
昨日失恋しました。

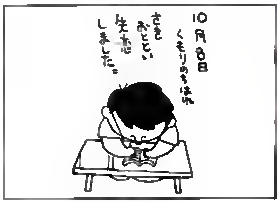
October 6 (Cloudy)
Yesterday my girlfriend dumped me

10月7日はれのちくもり
おととい失恋しました。

October 7 (Clear skies then cloudy)
Day before yesterday, my girlfriend dumped me

10月8日くもりのちはれ
さきおととい失恋しました。

October 8 (Cloudy, then clear)
Three days ago my girlfriend dumped me



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MY LORD,
SHALL I TAKE OVER YOUR WATCH UNTIL MORNING?
OH, HEALER LASAM.
NO, REALLY. I'M FINE.
I WAS PLANNING TO SPEND THE NIGHT READING.
MY SON ALSO TRIED HARD TO KEEP WATCH FOR A WHILE,
BUT HE IS STILL A CHILD AFTER ALL.
HE PROBABLY COULDN'T STAY UP AND FELL SLEEP.
LAMKHA!
YOU CAN GO TO SLEEP. I DON'T MIND.
I CAN DO THIS... ON MY OWN.

THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.
.....
LAMKHA!
dart
MY LORD,
YOU SHOULD LEAVE HIM BE, FOR HIS OWN SAKE.
HEY!

THE HIGH BLUE MOON

"YOU CAN JUST STAY HERE IN SANWA."
THAT WAS WHAT MASTER LAMKHA TOLD ME...
AS HE STOOD IN A THRONG OF SMILING VILLAGERS
IN A CURT TONE...
HEY!
AND I MEAN EVERY SINGLE DAY...
SINCE THEN,
I'VE SPENT EVERY DAY WITH MASTER LAMKHA
Break-fast time!

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT?!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING, SITTING AND EATING ON MY DOORSTEP?!
HEY
I WAS JUST DROPPING BY
YOU MEAN, THIS ISN'T MASTER LAMKHA'S HOUSE?!
BUT, HE WALKED IN—
LIKE HE OWNED THE PLACE!
LAMKHA!!
YOU USED MY STUFF AND STOLE MY FOOD WHILE I WAS GONE! AGAIN!!
SHUT UP! I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT AND TREKKED ACROSS THE HILLS AND FIELDS AND BACK AGAIN! IT MADE ME HUNGRY, ALL RIGHT?!
WAIT! BEFORE YOU FIGHT, TELL ME WHO HE IS!

AS MASTER LAMKHA WAS SAYING,
LAST NIGHT, WE TRAVELED TO A RATHER DISTANT VILLAGE TO DRIVE AWAY THE FLYING SERPENTS.
AH, DON'T!
BE QUIET! YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CUT OFF ITS TAIL, DO YOU? WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET ME TALK TO IT?

Carry my stuff!
MENIAL LABOR
OF COURSE,
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?!
THEN WHY DID YOU TAKE ME ALONG?
IF WE DO IT YOUR WAY, I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO AND I WON'T GET PAID!
HE DRAGS ME ALONG
COME ON!!!
COME ON!!!
COME ON!
WHEREVER HE GOES,
huff
huff
EVEN THOUGH IT'S TIRING,
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME...
AT ALL.
Oh.
He's waiting for me.
THEY'RE FLYING TOO LOW.
TRY TALKING TO THEM, KANAN.

THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON WAS NOT MERELY A LEGEND
MASTER LAMKHA, WHO IS ONE OF ITS DESCENDENTS TOLD ME THAT I WAS ALSO AN HEIR TO THE SAME SOUL
PLEASE, RETURN TO THE SKY.
IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO ATTACK THE VILLAGERS' LIVESTOCK.
TO NORMAL FOLK, THE ORGANS OF THE MESSENGERS OF HEAVEN OR FLYING SERPENTS ARE NOTHING BUT POISON. HOWEVER, THEY WERE A MIRACLE CURE THAT BROUGHT US BACK FROM DEATH'S DOOR.
HEY,
WHY DON'T YOU GO NUMB WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THEIR EYES?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
YOU NEVER COULD LOOK THEM IN THE EYE, EH?

WHY NOT?
I WONDER IF THE TOXIN AFFECTS PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY, DEPENDING ON THE DOSE.
WHO KNOWS?
OH, BUT...
MY SOLE TALENT—
—TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ANIMALS, THAT IS—
MAY BECOME MORE USEFUL IF I'M IMMUNE TO THEIR EYES.
THEIR EYES...
HAVE A MYSTERIOUS POWER
AN' MAN OR BEAST THAT SEES THEIR
BECOMES MESMERIZED AND STOPS MOVING.
THEN...
The Flying Serpent Hypnosis Show 3
You idiot!
As if!
Honestly
IF FLYING SERPENTS COULD SPEAK,
THEN THEY COULD CONTROL OTHER LIVING THINGS AT WILL OR BRAINWASH THEM
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME ON SOME-THING SO SILLY!

OH, THIS IS SHIN.
MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND
AND A FELLOW RESIDENT OF SANWA.
.....
HANG ON, LAMKHA!
IDIOT! IT'S MORE THAN JUST A HOBBY!
NEVER MIND WHAT YOU JUST SAID, IS IT TRUE?
HIS PASTIME IS LOOKING FOR MEDICINAL HERBS
YEAH. SHE'S ALSO A DESCENDANT OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON.
I FOUND HER WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.
LOOK AT HER NAIL SHE BEARS THE SAME MARK AS I DO.
grab
I'M KANAN.
SHE WAS BLEEDING TO DEATH,
SO I MADE HER SWALLOW THE INNARDS OF A FLYING SERPENT AND THEN SHE CAME BACK TO LIFE.

MOUTH TO MOUTH.
HE FED ME DIRECTLY...
THAT'S TRUE
IT WAS PURELY FIRST AID.
UH, NO...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY—
I'M SURE HE WOULD DO THE SAME FOR ANY INJURED DOG OR CAT
I CAN'T TELL HIM IT WAS MY FIRST KISS.
IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING.
WHATEVER HAPPENS,
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM—

WHAT?
EASY THERE.
YOU'RE SUCH A WORRY-WART.
AND YOU TAKE THINGS TOO LIGHTLY!
HEY, SHIN.
DON'T LISTEN IN ON OTHER PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS!
THIS IS WHY--
Could it be...
ME?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
IN FACT, MY FATHER--
UM...

...I HATE WOMEN!
OH, SO YOU KNOW
that she's a girl
AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHE WAS SOME SKINNY BRAT.
Uh...
OF COURSE I KNOW! SHE REEKS OF IT!
SHE STINKS LIKE AN IRRITATING, UNCONTROLLABLE, AND SLIMY MILDEW THAT GROWS BENEATH THE FLOOR!
AND YOU'RE THE ONE THAT CAPTURED THOSE ANNOYING GIRLS AND TOLD THEM THEY STUNK LIKE SHIT AND MADE THEM CRY WHEN YOU WERE A KID, REMEMBER?!
Little Lamkha
HEY, KANAN!
IGNORE HIM. GO OVER THERE AND FINISH YOUR FOOD
OH, BUT...
WEREN'T YOU ALSO EATING BEFORE HE CAME?
YOU SAID YOU WERE STARVING
HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU...
grab
HALF OF MY DUMP—

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING SOME NEWS TO HIS LORDSHIP
It's all your fault that I forgot
AH, I FORGOT
Then why did he chug it?
Oh um...
GULP
No just plain water
Is that liquor?!
NEWS FOR MY FATHER?
IN SOME VILLAGES, MANY OF THE YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE GONE MISSING FOR ALMOST HALF A MONTH
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD ON MY WAY HOME
THE VILLAGERS AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN...
THEY DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE?

It's nothing...
YOU'VE TRAVELED FAR, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SHIN.
I'LL GO AND MEET THE LORDS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGES.
You're sick! Shut up!
I HOPE IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS...
THEY WERE EATEN! THOSE FLYING SERPENTS MUST HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE TENDER AND JUICY!
IS IT HAPPENING IN THE CITIES
WERE THEY KIDNAPPED?
YOUNG WOMEN ... AND CHILDREN ...
GO SEE YOURS.
NOW THAT YOU'RE DONE TALKING WITH MY FATHER,
HEY, SHIN.
NO WAY!
.....
That one
SHIN!
SHIN'S FATHER?
Lasam the medicine man...
is the Sonny Chiba* of Sanwa.
SO YOU'VE RETURNED.

*An actor and martial artist also known as Chiba Shin'ichi

HEY! STOP FAWING THROUGH MY STUFF!
HEY, YOU EVEN HAVE A NEW MEDICINE BOOK. WHERE DID YOU GET THE MONEY TO BUY THAT?
CYPRESS-LEAVED CAMELLIAS AND SWEET FLAGS... YOU HAVE QUITE A FEW RAW INGREDIENTS, TOO. THISTLES, HARE'S EAR ROOTS, JUJUBES...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOUR HOBBY IS COLLECTING MEDICINAL HERBS?
ALL YOU EVER DO IS TRAVEL. YOU NEVER HELP ME WITH MY PRACTICE.
Ugh
ONLY IF YOU PAY ME!
Lend me the book, too
You wish!
GIVE ME HALF OF THE HERBS AND INGREDIENTS.
UM...
BACK THERE?
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT.
You're charging your own father?!
And you were going to mug your own son?!
THAT'S WHY SHIN LIVES ALONE IN THAT HOUSE.
OUR LOCAL HEALERS DON'T GET ALONG WELL.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GNG

HIS LORDSHIP, LASAM THE HEALER...
BUT...
THE VILLAGERS WILL PANIC IF THEY FIND OUT
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL ANYONE THAT WE ARE DESCENDANTS OF THE HOLY DRAGON, EXCEPT FOR A SELECT FEW
IS NOT TROUBLING ANYONE
...YOUR
LIFE...

...
WHAT'S WRONG?
EVEN IF THOSE AREN'T THE INNARDS, THEY'RE TOO RISKY FOR LAYMEN, LIKE THE VILLAGERS, TO HANDLE
THESE ARE THE SEVERED TAILS OF THE FLYING SERPENTS, RIGHT?
..AND NOW SHIN...
OH..
HEALER LASAM, THIS IS FROM LAST NIGHT'S HUNT
YOU ONLY GET RID OF THEM, RIGHT?
ARE YOU HURT ANY-WHERE?
NO!
ARE YOU COMING DOWN WITH A FEVER?
LAMKHA!
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SHIN?

I WONDER
WHAT MASTER LAMKHA'S CHILDHOOD IN SANWA WAS LIKE
I ENVY THEM.
ONLY SOMEONE WHO GREW UP AND SPENT HIS LIFE IN ONE PLACE COULD HAVE A FRIEND LIKE THAT
FIND YOUR-SELF ANOTHER HOBBY!
I'M YOUR PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, REMEMBER?
CHILDHOOD FRIENDS
What kind of relationship do they have?
Look. Shin's at it again
NE DOESN'T HESITATE
LIKE JUST NOW
TO TOUCH OTHER PEOPLE,

THANK YOU
WAS IT TOO HEAVY?
HE MUST HAVE HAD A HAPPY CHILDHOOD
AND INTERACTED WITH THEM.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SURROUNDED BY THE KIND PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE
IS IT TRUE
THAT FLYING SERPENTS HAVE BEEN EATING PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY'RE HUNGRY?
OF COURSE NOT
THEY MAY LOOK INTIMIDATING BUT THEY DON'T EAT HUMANS
BECAUSE THEY'RE HEAVEN'S MESSENGERS?
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS
UM
HAVE YOU HEARD
ABOUT THE MISSING VILLAGERS?
THEY DON'T LIKE THE TASTE
of humans
I'll tell others that
Convinced
I SEE

I'm sorry!
OH, NOT REALLY.
ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT MY HAND?
I HEARD THAT— WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, YOU WORKED IN A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE WHERE THEY EXTRACTED THE POISON FROM FLYING SERPENTS
WAS LASAM THE HEALER— AN OUTSIDER, TOO?
A DOCTOR WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAVING PEOPLE'S LIVES— SPENT HIS DAYS RESEARCHING AND EXPERI-MENTING ON TECHNIQUES TO EXTRACT AND PURIFY A POISON— I WAS YOUNG AND FOOLISH THEN—
I USED TO WORK IN SUCH A PLACE MYSELF THIS IS A MEMENTO FROM THOSE DAYS

PUNISHMENT?
BUT, MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE DID NOTHING BUT SLAVE AWAY!
DOES THE HOLY DRAGONS PUNISH THEM... AS WELL?
OR PEOPLE FORCED BY THEIR CIRCUM-STANCES...
CHILDREN WITH NOWHERE TO GO TO, LIKE ME BACK THEN,
ANY CHANGES TO YOUR BODY?
HAVE THERE BEEN...
They're so narrow-minded!
KANAN
EVER SINCE MY SON FOUND OUT ABOUT MY PAST,
HE'S BEEN CONDEMN-ING ME
HE SAYS IT'S THE PUNISHMENT FROM THE CELESTIAL HOLY DRAGONS...
AND THAT MY SINS WILL CONTINUE TO HAUNT ME FOR YEARS TO COME

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY NOTICEABLE CHANGES ANYWHERE...
SINCE LORD LAMKHA GAVE YOU THE FLYING SERPENT'S POISON?
B-
BUT
WELL...
DIDN'T THE POISON TURN OUT TO BE A CURE FOR ME AND MASTER LAMKHA?
I'M GLAD THERE AREN'T ANY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
IF SOMETHING BOTHERS YOU,
YOU MUST TELL ME!
YOU MUSTN'T HIDE IT!
I KNOW, I KNOW.
IF AND ONLY IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, THAT IS.
YOU'RE SO PERSISTENT.
You're going to be bald from worrying too much
CHANGES...

WAIT A MINUTE...
HAVE I BEEN...
SLEEPING AT ALL LATELY?
EVEN AFTER STAYING UP SEVERAL NIGHTS TO DRIVE AWAY FLYING SERPENTS I DON'T FEEL SLEEPY AT—
Hey Mr Yak
MOO
NOTHING IS WRONG WITH ME
IN FACT, I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER.
THINKING TOO MUCH MAKES IT EVEN HARDER FOR ME TO GET TO SLEEP
THIS IS NOT GOOD
UGH...
already morning
It's...

Whee!
Ha ha ha!
AH, LORD LAMKHA!
WE'VE PICKED SOME DELICIOUS FRUIT
COME AND JOIN OUR FEAST
NO, THANKS
YOU GUYS START WITHOUT ME
BUT THEY'RE REALLY GOOD!
I DON'T FEEL LIKE SHARING! I WANT EVERY LAST PIECE FOR MYSELF!
JEEZ, LORD LAMKHA!

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOU.ORG

EH?
GO GET ME THE ENTIRE SET OF CARPENTRY TOOLS FROM THE SHED
SOME BOARDS AND NAILS, TOO.
WHERE YOU'RE STAYING NOW IS AN OLD SENTRY POST THAT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE LIVED IN. THAT'S WHY IT'S FULL OF HOLES.

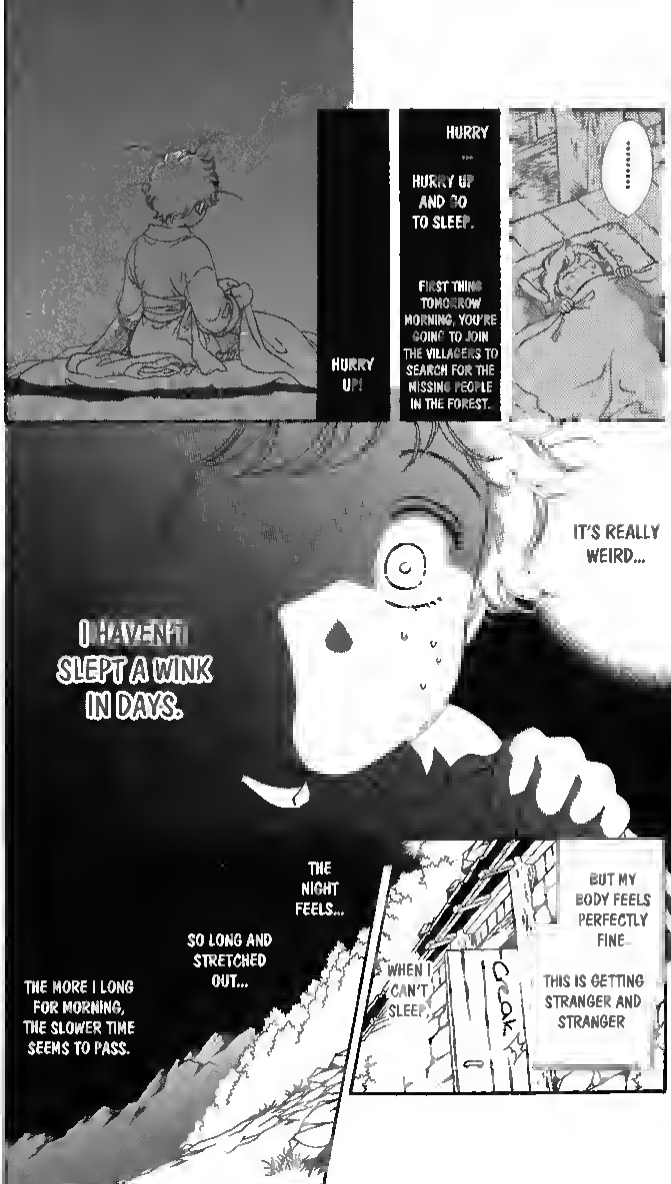
knock knock
dang dang dang
(SIGH)
WE'RE GOING TO BUILD A NEW SENTRY POST SOMEWHERE ELSE.
SO THIS IS NOW OFFICIALLY YOUR HOME. YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND THE DAY FIXING IT.

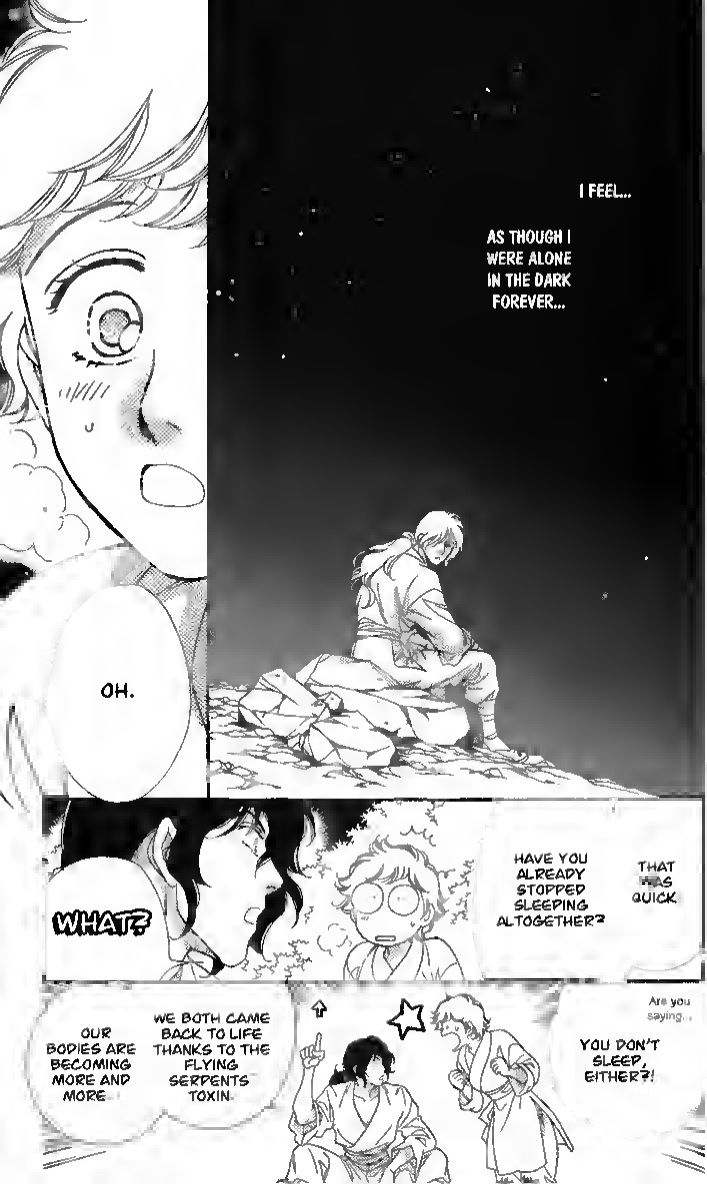
I'M SO HAPPY
OUCH!
I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL HER FOR HER OWN GOOD
YOU COULD'VE JUST LET HER LIVE IN THE NEW SENTRY POST YOU'RE BUILDING.
LOOK SHE'S CRYING BECAUSE SHE HIT HER FINGER
IT FEELS LIKE A DREAM
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I HAVE A HOME TO CALL MY OWN
REALLY?!
THIS CALLS FOR CELEBRATION, KANAN!
OH, YOU'RE BUSY
I'M GLAD I CAME TO SANWA
AH! ☆
I'LL COME WITH YOU JUST LET ME FINISH THIS FIRST
I CAME HERE TO ASK IF YOU COULD HELP IN THE FIELDS

NO CAN DO!
SHE STILL HAS TO BUILD THE NEW SENTRY POST WHEN SHE'S DONE HERE.
PLUS, I HAVE HEAPS OF ERRANDS WAITING FOR HER.
NOBODY CAN BORROW HER FOR THE TIME BEING!
HOLD ON, LORD LAMIKHA!
YOU NEED TO STOP BOSSING HER AROUND! YOU TWO AREN'T "MASTER AND SERVANT"!!
THAT'S TRUE.
I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED HER A "SERVANT".
"KINGPIN AND FLUNKY"...
IS HOW I SEE IT.
LIKE A CHICK TO A HEN.
See?
More or less
Yeah

YOU FOOL! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SLIPPED IF YOU HAD WATCHED WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
I'm sorry!
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SLOW-POKE!
EEP!
please wait for me!
It is not too difficult to picture
...THE NEW FLUNKY DESPERATELY TAGS ALONG BEHIND THE UNCOUTH SLAVE DRIVER OF A KINGPIN...
YOU...
.....
WELL...
ANY NEWS FROM THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN?
WELCOME BACK, MY LORD.
OH,
Hmph!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT SHE'S A HANDFUL! SHE NEEDS TO BE WATCHED OVER!
WHICH PART OF ME IS HAPPY?!
.. LOOK HAPPY.

IT SEEMS LIKE ANOTHER PERSON HAS GONE MISSING
Hoo hah
ANYBODY WHO HAS TIME TO SPARE, PLEASE LEND A HAND
STARTING TOMORROW, WE'RE EXPANDING OUR SEARCH DEEPER INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS
HAVE THEY BEEN EATEN BY THE FLYING SERPENTS?!
NO! YESTERDAY DIDN'T LASAM THE HEALER EXPLAIN THAT THEY DON'T DO THAT?!
HEY, FLYING SERPENTS
IF IT REALLY WASN'T YOU...
THEN YOU MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING FROM UP THERE, RIGHT?
AT THE END OF THE DAY, MY LITTLE SHELTER WAS FAR FROM BEING FIXED...


HURRY UP!
HURRY ... HURRY UP AND GO TO SLEEP.
FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING, YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THE VILLAGERS TO SEARCH FOR THE MISSING PEOPLE IN THE FOREST.
.....
IT'S REALLY WEIRD...
I HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK IN DAYS.
THE NIGHT FEELS...
SO LONG AND STRETCHED OUT...
THE MORE I LONG FOR MORNING, THE SLOWER TIME SEEMS TO PASS.
WHEN I CAN'T SLEEP,
CLOCK
BUT MY BODY FEELS PERFECTLY FINE...
THIS IS GETTING STRANGER AND STRANGER


I FEEL...
AS THOUGH I WERE ALONE IN THE DARK FOREVER...
OH.
WHAT?
HAVE YOU ALREADY STOPPED SLEEPING ALTOGETHER?
THAT WAS QUICK.
OUR BODIES ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE...
WE BOTH CAME BACK TO LIFE THANKS TO THE FLYING SERPENTS TOXIN.
Are you saying...
YOU DON'T SLEEP, EITHER?!

LIKE THEM
THEY KEEP ON FLYING ALMOST WITHOUT SLEEPING DON'T THEY?
WE'RE BECOMING LIKE THEM. WE'RE STILL HEALTHY DESPITE GOING FOR DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP
BUT
THAT ONLY HAPPENED TO ME A FEW YEARS AFTER I WAS GIVEN THE TOXIN
YOU'RE REACTING QUICKLY
YOU ALSO WEREN'T PARALYZED WHEN YOU LOOKED INTO THEIR EYES
AND IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH YET
I SEE! ☆
SO THIS IS WHAT LASAM THE HEALER MEANT
WHEN HE MENTIONED "CHANGES"!
Wow Incredible
IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING UNABLE TO SLEEP DESPITE WANTING TO,
IT'S NOT A HEALTH PROBLEM EVEN IF I DON'T SLEEP
STILL,
IF WE LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE,
WE CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF THE LONG NIGHTS
FOR EXAMPLE

...WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT LISTENING TO THE STORY OF THE BIG, BAD KINGPIN OF SANWA, WHICH I HAVEN'T HEARD YET.
Gah!?
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
FOR REVIVING ME, EVEN IF IT WAS BY FORCE.
THE VILLAGERS ARE KIND TO ME,
bow
AND I EVEN HAVE A HOME NOW.
MANY GOOD THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO ME SINCE THEN.
"FIRST OF ALL, YOU MUST STAY ALIVE
ONLY THEN, THE REST WILL FALL IN PLACE
A NEW ROAD IS WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED."
EVERYTHING YOU SAID WAS TRUE
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU BAG

YOU HEARD IT, TOO,
DIDN'T YOU, KANAN?
SOME-THING...
BUT,
IT WASN'T A FLYING SERPENT.
THERE WAS A DISTANT, FAINT SOUND OF A WILD ANIMAL.
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG.
IS FRIGHTEN-ING
MR. YAK TO DEATH.
IT WASN'T A FLYING SERPENT.
BUT THEN,
WHAT ON EARTH COULD IT BE?

THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM VISITING RELATIVES IN THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE,
WHEN THEY STUMBLED OVER SOME BUSHES ON THE ROADSIDE...
AND FOUND THIS
THIS IS HUMAN BLOOD
I CAN'T! I'M TOO SCARED!
IF I CLOSE MY EYES, I'M GOING TO SEE IT IN MY DREAMS!!
YOU'D BETTER REST
GET SOME SLEEP.
A SCRAP OF CLOTHING
IT MUST BELONG TO ONE OF THE MISSING VILLAGERS
WE SHOULD INFORM THE VILLAGES AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN
Would brandy work?
SHE SAYS SHE FEELS LIKE SHE'S DROWNING IN THAT POOL OF BLOOD
BOIL SOME SOOTHING HERBS OR SOMETHING FOR HER.
GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE
KANAN?

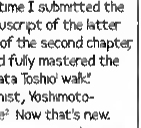
...
YOU'VE BEEN PULLED FROM THE POOL OF BLOOD
AND, NOW, YOU'RE STANDING IN A FIELD OF FLOWERS
Close your eyes
HEY!
IT CAN'T HARM YOU ANYMORE
YOU'RE SAFE RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY BLOSSOM AFTER BLOSSOM OF SWEETLY SCENTED FLOWERS
.....
FLOWERS ?
YES, FLOWERS
TRY CLOSING YOUR EYES
NOW YOU CAN SLEEP, CAN'T YOU?
Flop
I DID IT!
DID YOU SEE THAT?! I DID IT!!!

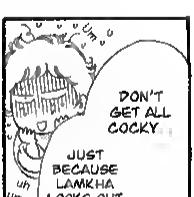
YOU'RE INCREDIBLE
.....
You're supposed to be my flunky!
How dare you make progress without me you little—
I USED THE FLYING SERPENT'S HYPNOSES ON HER!
YOU TOLD ME ABOUT IT THE OTHER DAY, REMEMBER?
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD ACTUALLY HYPNOTIZE PEOPLE, NOW THAT I'M BECOMING MORE LIKE THEM...
AND SO...
THAT WAS THE KIND OF REACTION...
THAT I EXPECTED FROM HIM...
Everyone says it's dangerous because we don't know what we're dealing with.
HE LEFT YOU ALL ALONE
SERVES YOU RIGHT
HE LEFT YOU, TOO

three

I was halfway through the latter half of the second chapter when I accidentally tripped over a bump in the road, which resulted in a chip fracture in the tip of my left instep. I was trying to hold onto my new violin case to protect it and forgot to watch my step. It took three weeks and a plaster cast for it to heal completely. Looking back at the medical expense, I'd like to think that, at least, I was right in protecting my violin as well as its brand new case.

Since the cast immobilized my ankle, I found out that stepping sideways was much easier than stepping forward in the middle of my stride. By the time I submitted the manuscript of the latter half of the second chapter, I had fully mastered the "Sakata Toshio walk." Violinist, Yoshimoto-style? Now that's new.





Ah!
RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?
THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE
JUST NOW
BUT IN SO DOING, HE ALSO CHANGED LAMKHA'S LIFE
MY OLD MAN GAVE HIM THE POISON FROM A FLYING SERPENT IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS LIFE
WHEN LAMKHA WAS A BABY, HE NEARLY DIED FROM A DISEASE

[1]A comedian

[2]Short for Yoshimoto Kogyo, an entertainment company specializing in comedies.

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GAG

YOU DON'T JUST LOOK THOUGHT-LESS,
YOU ARE THOUGHT-LESS.
No I don't
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT BROUGHT IT ON, DO YOU?
THE TOXIN FROM THE FLYING SERPENTS
FORCIBLY FIXED YOUR AND LAMKHA'S SOULS TO YOUR BODIES
—THAT'S RIGHT—
AT THE SAME TIME, YOUR BODIES BEGAN TO CHANGE
AND—
AS A RESULT, YOU BEGAN EXHIBITING POWERS NO NORMAL HUMANS ARE BORN WITH
THE TRUTH IS,
THERE ARE STILL MANY MYSTERIES THAT SURROUND
THE DESCEN-DENTS OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON

—WE DO NOT KNOW...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU NEXT.
MENTALLY
OR PHYSICALLY
IN FACT, YOUR BIZARRE LITTLE TRICKS ARE PROGRESSING SO QUICKLY,
AT THIS RATE, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOUR BODIES WILL STOP CHANGING.
THAT IT MAKES LAMKHA'S CHANGE SEEM SLOW.
...YOU'RE INCREDIBLE.
THE LAST TIME MY FATHER...
DABBLED WITH FLYING SERPENTS' POISON WAS DECADES AGO.
BUT HIS LOST THE TIP OF HIS FINGER ...
ONLY LAST YEAR.

ONCE THE POISON ENTERS YOUR BODY, IT DOES NOT DISSIPATE.
THAT IS WHY
I'VE BEEN COLLECTING MEDICINAL HERBS OF EVERY KIND,
AND BUYING NEW MEDICAL BOOKS.
IT'S SO I CAN HELP LAMKHA IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM.
DIDN'T LASAM THE HEALER TAKE HALF OF THEM?
LET ME...
LOOK FOR SOME MORE HERBS IN THE BACK WOODS
HEY
HMM?
YOU CAN FIND THEM ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE LOWER MARSHES.
THANK YOU. YOU'VE BEEN VERY KIND.
Well, then, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

...
THERE'S NO TELLING EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US
RESPONSIBILITY...
DOES MASTER LAMKHA FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ME?
RUSTLE
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
IT'S RATHER FRIGHTENING.
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
OH, NO. I'M JUST PICKING SOME HERBS.
SAME HERE.

HA HA HA.
FROM AROUND HERE?
ARE YOU
BUT I CAN'T REALLY TELL THEM APART
ALL OF THAT GRASS LOOKS THE SAME TO ME
WOULD YOU MIND SHARING A FEW TIPS?
Now that you mention it
ACTUALLY
I DON'T KNOW EITHER
EH?
I'M SURE I HEARD THE CRY OF AN UNKNOWN CREATURE JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK
THEN WHERE IN THE WORLD...
DID THE CREATURE COME FROM?
WITH THE MISSING VILLAGERS AND THE POOL OF BLOOD...
IF THERE'S A CONNECTION...

SLASH
BOARRR!
THAT VOICE!
!!
WAIT!
DON'T RUN AWAY!

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.XAKYOKU.ORG

Gasp
SWOOSH
I DO KNOW OF A FEW EDIBLE TYPES OF GRASS AND FRUIT
At least those that can cure a stomach ache.
WHOOSH
WHAT KINDS OF HERBS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? WHAT SYMPTOMS ARE YOU TRYING TO TREAT?
PAIN...

SHE...
IS MY BELOVED.
I WANT TO RELIEVE HER PAIN, EVEN JUST A LITTLE
UNFORTUNATELY, I COULDN'T FIND A PHYSICIAN ANYWHERE THAT COULD CURE HER, NOT EVEN IN THE CAPITAL
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HER
I WANT TO HELP HER
I DON'T WANT HER TO DIE
WAIT HERE! I'LL GO GET HIM!
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S WELL VERSED IN HERBS!
I KNOW!
OH, DEAR!
THAT'S TERRIBLE!

HEY!
IT'S GETTING DARK!
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR YOU TO REALIZE YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED?!
OH!!
SHIN!
You made that up?!
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO SEARCH SOMEPLACE THAT I MADE UP?!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
Huh?
JUST WHO...
AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP?
HE NEEDS SOME HERBS FOR
CAN YOU PLEASE HELP HIM?

I COULD HAVE SWORN HE WAS RIGHT HERE...
I ALREADY TOLD THE VILLAGERS NOT TO CARRY TORCHES WHEN THEY'RE OUT SEARCHING AT NIGHT.
THAT WAS WISE OF YOU, LAMIKHA.
THE CULPRIT... IS A HUMAN.
THIS, TOO, IS OBVIOUSLY THE CONSEQUENCE OF USING FLYING SERPENT VENOM.
EVERY INCH WAS COVERED IN LESIONS... AND THE SKIN HAD HARDENED INTO SCALES.
USUALLY A PATIENT WHO HAS REACHED THIS STAGE...
HAS NO HOPE OF SURVIVAL...
RISE

I'LL GO SEARCHING
BEFORE THE NIGHT ENDS.
ALONE.
TONIGHT WILL BE CLOUDY
BY MIDNIGHT, THE MOON WILL BE HIDDEN
MOONLIGHT OR NO, IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM FOR ME
WHY ARE YOU GOING ON YOUR OWN?!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO DRAG ME ALONG WHEREVER YOU GO?!
You're a coward! Remember?!
SILENCE! I DON'T NEED A SERVANT TONIGHT!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!!
I'LL SET OUT AS SOON AS THE MOON VANISHES
IT WILL BE EASIER TO SET AN AMBUSH IN THE DARK

I'M SURE THERE'S SOME WAY THAT I CAN HELP YOU I'M NOT AS USELESS AS I USED TO BE.
Gasp
STAY HERE.
OR I'LL BEAT YOU AND I MEAN IT.
MASTER LAMKHA!!

TAKE ME...
WITH YOU!!!
FINE! SO BE IT!
Uh
no
BUT IF YOU GET IN MY WAY, I'LL BOOT YOU DOWN THE VALLEY!
DO YOU WANT TO BE EATEN AND REDUCED TO A POOL OF BLOOD?!
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO PERSISTENT

How could you give in to her?!
I'll start packing
packing!
DON'T BLAME ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE
IF THE SITUATION DEMANDS IT,
I'LL COME UP—
WITH SOMETHING.
AH!
THERE YOU ARE, KANAN!
GOOD-WIFE
LET'S HAVE A HOUSE-WARMING—
LIKE WE PROMISED!
HOLD ON—
ARE YOU REALLY HOLDING A PARTY, WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON RIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE VILLAGE?
RIGHT NOW?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HAVEN'T PROPERLY WELCOMED YOU TO SANWA, KANAN
EXACTLY!
WE'LL MAKE MERRY, SO THAT CREATURE WON'T DARE COME NEAR THIS VILLAGE!
I'm home!
REALLY?!
OH, BUT...
BUT I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING RIGHT NOW!

IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

THERE'S STILL SOME TIME BEFORE THE MOON IS FULLY HIDDEN.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
Are you mad at me?!
MASTER LAMKHA?!
JUST GO.
DON'T WORRY.
JUST ENJOY YOUR WELCOMING PARTY.
CLANG
CLANG
Defense against the unknown monster?
ACTUALLY
WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE THIS FEAST EARLIER.
BUT LORD LAMKHA HAS BEEN DRAGGING YOU WITH HIM ALL OVER THE PLACE.
Whoop it up! Hang loose!!

Wash your face and eat your breakfast!
And then you can go play!!
HE HASN'T CHANGED
HE'S STILL THE SAME ROWDY BOY.
NO WAY!!!
Oh?
I thought so
I USED TO HELP AROUND HIS HOUSE
WHEN LORD LAMKHA WAS STILL A CHILD,
Is the moon still out?
ISN'T HE MEAN TO YOU, TOO, KANAN?
HE USED TO SIT IN TREES AND SLING YAK OR SHEEP DUNG AT US
WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER,
YEAH, AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU KNOW,
They are, right?
I MEAN, AREN'T HE AND SHIN REALLY CLOSE FRIENDS?
THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING
HE'S ACTUALLY QUITE KIND
HE'S A BIT ROUGH ON ME,
BUT I'M ALREADY USED TO IT.
IN THOSE DAYS,
THEY WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING.

WHAT?
I didn't know that!
BUT ONE DAY, THEY SUDDENLY STOPPED.
HE STOPPED PLAYING PRANKS ON US RIGHT ABOUT THEN
WHICH REMINDS ME,
THERE WAS THIS TIME...
I WAS GIVING OUT SOME SWEETS TO THE CHILDREN.
BUT THERE WASN'T ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE. I WAS SHORT A PIECE.
I'M NOT...
I'M NOT TAKING ONE.
I DON'T WANT IT.
MAYBE—
HE HAD FOUND OUT BY THEN—
HE WASN'T A NATIVE OF SANWA, THAT HE CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE
HE MIGHT HAVE FELT THAT HIS MERE PRESENCE... WAS BOTHERING EVERYONE...
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, IT WAS WHEN...

...HIS MOTHER, HIS ONLY BLOOD RELATIVE, PASSED AWAY.
THE MOON IS STILL HIGH.
BUT WITH THIS WIND,
THE SKY WILL BE CLOUDY BY THE TIME YOU GET THERE.
HEY, SHIN.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
IT MUST BE A LOT OF WORK COLLECTING THE HERBS AND STUDYING THEM.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR ME.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
COME BACK IMMEDIATELY IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT ON YOUR OWN.
LAMKHA

point
DON'T WORRY
HEY, SHIN!
WHEN I GET BACK, I'LL STOP BY YOUR PLACE.
YOU CAN GO TO BED, BUT REMEMBER TO LEAVE SOME FOOD OUT FOR ME LIKE USUAL!
ND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, MY HOUSE ISN'T YOUR PERSONAL INN!
IDIOT! I'M NOT GOING TO SLEEP!
LAMKHA?!
HE'S NOT THE LORD'S NATURAL BORN SON?!

Trap
THE SAME LAMKHA WHO CALLED ME
A WEAKLING AND A USELESS BOOKWORM!
THE DUNCE WHO S DEAD LAST IN STUDYING!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT!
DAMN HIM! HE TRICKED ALL OF US!
I know all about your secret!
YOU'RE A CONCEITED JERK WHO ACTS LIKE YOU OWN THE WORLD!
WHAT?

YOU MEAN...
ZZZ
YOU DIDN'T KNOW EITHER,

MASTER LAMKHA!!
THE PARTY'S OVER
THEY'VE ALL GONE TO SLEEP
HE LEFT SOME TIME AGO
WHAT ?!
But he promised to wait for me!
FOLLOWED THE PATH TO THE VALLEY
DUE WEST OF THE LOWER MARSHES
Turn
THANK YOU.
I'M GOING AFTER HIM
AH.
I'M NOT LYING THIS TIME.

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BEFORE I GO,
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU, SHIN.
WHICH HERBS ARE USED TO ALLEVIATE PAIN?
IT'S HARD TO TELL
WITH THE THICK FOLIAGE COVERING THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF
MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT, THERE'S A SHACK NEARBY
WHOOSH
DEAD

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SO...
LACKEY GIRL...
IS ALSO ABLE TO SEE IN THE DARK, EVEN ON A MOONLESS NIGHT LIKE THIS.
JUST LIKE LAMKHA
Hah!
...
BUT STILL,
I KNOW HIM FAR BETTER...
THAN YOU EVER WILL,
just so you know.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, MASTER LAMKHA HAS BEEN THERE FOR ME.
BUT IN THE PAST...
HE HAS HAD TO SPEND THOSE LONG NIGHTS ALONE.
HE MUST HAVE FELT SO LONELY
WITHOUT ANYONE TO TALK TO ABOUT IT.
EEP!
THOUGH THE KIND LORD AND SHIN WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR HIM, THERE WILL BE NIGHTS WHEN THEY CAN'T STAY UP TO KEEP HIM COMPANY
THAT TIME WHEN HE WAS WORRIED THAT HIS PRESENCE MIGHT BE BOTHERING EVERYONE

Ah!
YOU DISAPPEARED SO SUDDENLY
MY DARLING
THAT I THOUGHT I HAD SPOKEN TO A GHOST
AH!!
YOU'RE THE RERSON I MET TODAY!
IS NOT DOING WELL
SHE'S BEEN BADLY INJURED
WHAT?!
WHO HURT HER?!
OH! BY THE WAY
I THOUGHT I'D MEET YOU AGAIN,
SO I ASKED ABOUT THE HERBS YOU NEEDED—
PLEASE—
HELP...
...HER.
!!
CRCAK

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE SCENT, BUT THE SOURCE HAS PROBABLY MOVED
I DIDN'T TAKE THAT LONG TO GET HERE.
UGH... AND WHAT IS THAT SMELL?
ALL OF THEM...
DAMN IT!
JUST HOW MANY VICTIMS ARE THERE?!
THEY'VE BEEN TORN APART AND THE PARTS HAVE BEEN SCATTERED
AND YOUNG GIRLS...
CHILDREN...

WHERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE PARTS OF THEIR BODIES WERE EATEN!
WHERE DID YOU GO?
YOU MAN-EATER!!
Rustle

...
HEY...
THAT BLOODY LUMP YOU'RE CLUTCHING WITH YOUR REMAINING HAND...
WHAT IS IT?
ROAR
IS IT A LEFTOVER FROM THE SHACK?

AGH ...
UGH ...
HOW...
DID IT HAPPEN?
IT WAS THE FLYING SERPENT POISON, WASN'T IT?
STILL, HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO SURVIVE LIKE THAT?
THOUGH SHE SHOULD HAVE DIED,
SHE STILL LINGERS ON...
...
DON'T TELL ME...
ARE YOU...
LIKE US?
A DESCENDANT OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON?
gasp

WHO'S THERE?!
YOU, THE ONE, ENTERING THE CAVE?!
KANAN?!
UMPH...!!!
WHEN WILL YOU LEARN TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE?!
SHE GOT IT IN THE CAPITAL, RIGHT?
LOOK AT HOW MISERABLE SHE IS.
HOW CAN YOU PROLONG HER SUFFERING LIKE THIS?
IT WAS FOR ME...
IS THAT..
HIS SWEETHEART?
HOW DARE YOU!
WERE YOU THE ONE...
WHO CUT OFF HER HAND?

WHEN I WAS TOO SICK TO WORK,
SHE PUSHED HERSELF TO FIND A JOB IN MY PLACE
I TRIED TO STOP HER WHEN I FOUND OUT SHE WORKED WITH THE FLYING SERPENTS' VENOM.
BUT SHE JUST SMILED AND SAID SHE WAS FINE WITH IT.
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT ANY OF THIS...
THAT'S THE SAME KIND OF PLACE...
WHERE LASAM THE HEALER AND I ONCE WORKED...
SHE STOPPED EATING, SO I SEARCHED HARD FOR SOMETHING THAT SHE COULD EAT
IT TURNED OUT THAT THE ONLY "FOOD" SHE COULD EAT...
WERE HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD.
I GAVE HER SOME OF MINE,
BUT I COULD ONLY GIVE HER SO MUCH.
WE KILLED SO MANY IN THE CAPITAL THAT WE COULD NO LONGER STAY THERE
AND NOW,
JUST LIKE WHAT YOU DID TO HER...
TSUMUGU

...I'LL CUT OFF THIS GIRL'S HAND...
AND FEED IT TO MY DARLING.
NO!!!
!
I
BEG ...
YOU ...
KILL...
ME...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
DON'T GIVE UP NOW! WE'VE ALREADY MADE IT THIS FAR!!
STAR
AH...

THERE'S A LARGE FIELD OF HERBS... RIGHT BEFORE YOU...
EVERY PLANT IN THE FIELD...
LOOK INTO MY EYES!
CAN HEAL YOUR BODY.
THEY'RE MIRACLE HERBS.
THAT MAN, YOUR SWEET-HEART,
HAS LOOKED ALL OVER FOR THEM FOR YOU.
The herbs are in my clothes!

I WANTED HER—
TO LIVE—
NO MATTER—
WHAT SHE'D BECOME

DID I...
MADE LIFE UNBEARABLE FOR YOU?
...
MASTER LAMKHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NONE OF HER NAILS...
BEAR THE MARK OF THE TERRESTRIAL HOLY DRAGON'S DESCENDANT
NONE OF THE NAILS ON HER OTHER HAND—THE ONE THAT I SLICED OFF—HAD IT, EITHER.
DID I MAKE THE WRONG DECISION THEN?

MASTER LAMKHA!
I WANTED HER TO LIVE...
NO MATTER WHAT SHE'D BECOME...
...TO ME, ANYTHING WAS BETTER THAN SEEING HER DIE
I WAGERED THAT IT WOULDN'T NECESSARILY END IN CATASTROPHE...
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO SAVE HER
SPENT THOSE LONG NIGHTS ON MY OWN,
WAITING FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO APPEAR.
I HAVE...

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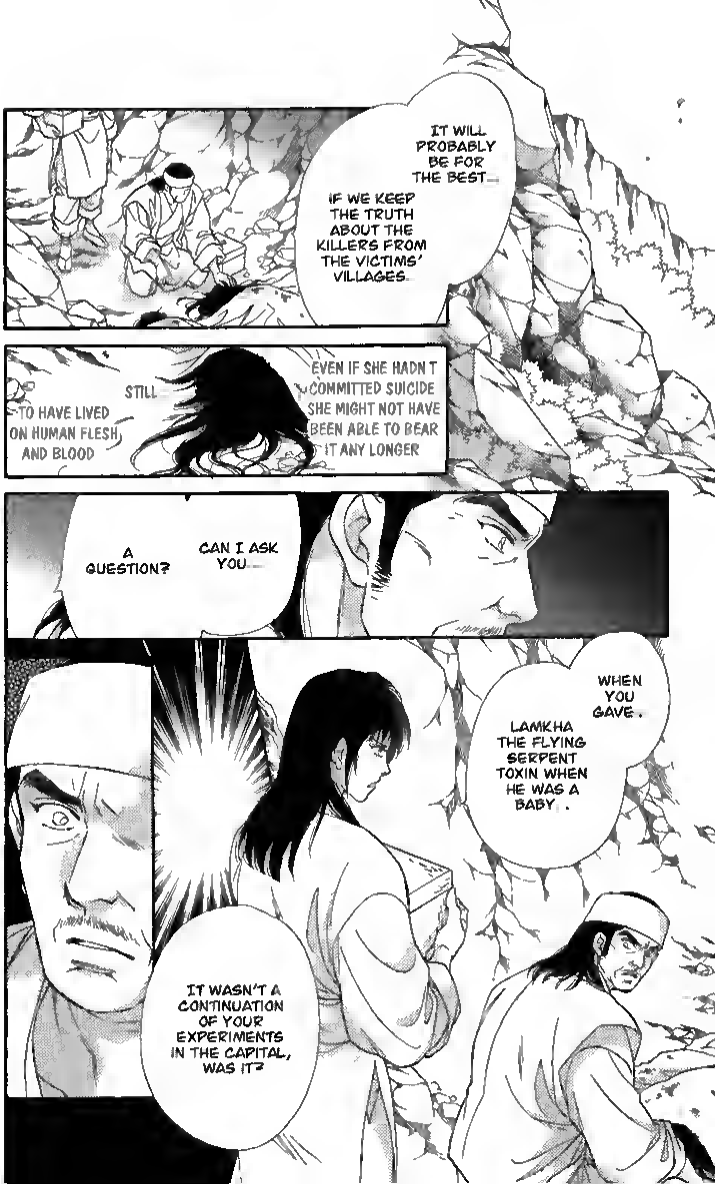
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GAG

THEN...
THOSE TWO...
MUST HAVE REACHED HEAVEN BY NOW.
THEY'LL BE PROTECTED BY THE CELESTIAL HOLY DRAGONS, WON'T THEY?
I LET IT...
SLIDE OUT OF MY HANDS,
UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO STOP HER
THE CELESTIAL HOLY DRAGONS WON'T PUNISH THEM EITHER, RIGHT?
...
NO.
SHE DIDN'T SNATCH THE SWORD AWAY FROM ME.


IT WILL PROBABLY BE FOR THE BEST...
IF WE KEEP THE TRUTH ABOUT THE KILLERS FROM THE VICTIMS' VILLAGES.
EVEN IF SHE HADN'T COMMITTED SUICIDE SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BEAR IT ANY LONGER
STILL...
TO HAVE LIVED ON HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD
CAN I ASK YOU...
A QUESTION?
WHEN YOU GAVE LAMKHA THE FLYING SERPENT TOXIN WHEN HE WAS A BABY...
IT WASN'T A CONTINUATION OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS IN THE CAPITAL, WAS IT?

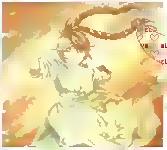
I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD, THEN.
HEAVENS, NO! WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?
EVEN IF YOU DON'T NEED SLEEP, YOU SHOULD USE THIS TIME TO REST.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE TO CHASE AWAY FLYING SERPENTS TONIGHT.
UM...
ISN'T THE MOON BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, WITHOUT THE CLOUDS HIDING IT?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED MY LIFE,
BUT..
WHATEVER...
HAPPENS TO ME IN THE FUTURE...
WILL BE MY BURDEN TO BEAR.
SO...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK OF ME AS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
FEEL FREE...
TO CONTINUE ISSUING ORDERS LIKE A REAL KINGPIN!

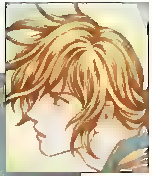
...
YOU'RE SUCH A NAG.
DON'T YELL AT MY BACK FROM OVER THERE.
tAp tAp
DASH
I WON'T!

I WANT TO SPEND THE LONG NIGHTS TO COME...
WITH YOU...
BY MY SIDE.
I DON'T MIND FOLLOWING YOUR LEAD.
You asked me to order you around.
Don't regret your words.
Uh...
AFTER ALL...
The High Blue Moon / END

IVYSCAN 5TH ANNIVERSARY



TENKUU SEIRYUU
-Innocent Dragon-



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TENKUU SEIRYUU
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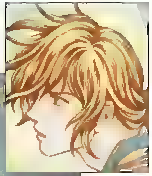

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SIMPLE STEPS IN EDITING

1. Grayscaling

2 Rotating

3. Cropping

4 Resizing

5 Leveling

6 Removing Text

7. Cleaning SFX

8 Text-setting

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10月5日はれのち雨
今日失恋しました。

October 5 (Clear skies, then rain)
Today my girlfriend dumped me

10月6日くもり
昨日失恋しました。

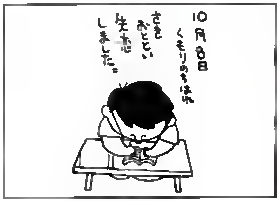
October 6 (Cloudy)
Yesterday my girlfriend dumped me

10月7日はれのちくもり
おととい失恋しました。

October 7 (Clear skies then cloudy)
Day before yesterday, my girlfriend dumped me

10月8日くもりのちはれ
さきおととい失恋しました。

October 8 (Cloudy, then clear)
Three days ago my girlfriend dumped me



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HANA TO YUME COMICS

TENKUU SEIRYUU
~Innocent Dragon~

Yamaguchi Miyuki 1

HANA TO YUME COMICS

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TENKUU SEIRYUU ~Innocent Dragon~ (1)

Yamaguchi Miyuki

Hakusensha

HANA TO YUME COMICS

▶Summary◀

The Lord of Sanwa's son Lamkha saves Kanan, who collapsed on the road, and brings her home. In Sanwa, where the Messengers of Heaven or Flying Serpents roam the skies, a legend has been passed down the generations. According to the legend, a Holy Dragon fell from the heavens following a battle against a Black Dragon and was buried in Sanwa. What is the truth behind the legend? Introducing an epic fantasy!

■ Serialized in Melody ■

Hakusensha

● Yamaguchi Miyuki's works

-Hana to Yume Comics-
Harutsuge Komachi -4 volumes-
Dragon Knight
Hitoyuri Touge
Odoriba Hotel
Magic*Meister
Rocket*Meister
Tenkuu Seryuu Innocent Dragon -volumes 1-2-

-Illustration collection-
Fairy Note

-Hakusensha Bunko-
Feminine wa Utau -2 volumes-
Tudgee Mudgee -volume 1-

Story Summary

The Lord of Sanwa's son Lamkha saves Kanan, who collapsed on the road, and brings her home. Long ago, in the now peaceful land of Sanwa, a Black Dragon battled against a Holy Dragon. The legend tells that the Holy Dragon fell from the sky and was buried on the grounds [of Sanwa]. What is the truth behind the legend? What is this Terrestrial Holy Dragon that Kanan is looking for? This is the first book of an epic fantasy!